

Israel expands Golan settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government is helping to expand settlements in the Golan Heights by pumping funds into projects there, Israel radio reported Saturday. The government put up 60 per cent of the \$100 million invested in the Golan in the last two years, with the rest coming from private investors among the 13,000 settlers and foreign businessmen, the radio said. Among the projects benefiting from public money in the Golan is a state-of-the-art cowshed near the kibbutz of collective village of Meron Golan which will produce six million litres of milk every year. Various ministries and public institutions have provided \$2.7 million out of the \$4.3 million for the project. Meanwhile, 500 new homes in Katzrin, the biggest settlement in the Golan, have been sold in the last six months and another 250 houses are under construction. The government has set out to attract new buyers with benefits including grants and mortgages at reduced rates, the radio said.

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King, Mubarak pledge pre-crisis bilateral ties

Aqaba summit produces agreement to launch efforts for Arab reconciliation

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak answers a question as His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan look on at a joint press conference the King and President Mubarak held after a meeting in Aqaba on Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al Allan)

From Ayman Al Safadi in Aqaba

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday pledged to develop Jordanian-Egyptian ties and to work towards reconciliation among Arab states.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a three-hour visit here by Mr. Mubarak, King Hussein said that Jordanian-Egyptian relations "will return to their previous level in terms of cooperation, coordination and joint action for the benefit of the Arab Nation."

Welcoming the Egyptian president as "dear brother," the King said the summit had produced an agreement that the two leaderships would maintain contacts at all levels.

"The future is full of goodness... we are brothers and our relations are old and based on... a determined desire to work together for the benefit of this nation," King Hussein told reporters in the garden at the Royal Palace following the meeting.

Mr. Mubarak, who was on his first visit to Jordan since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, also

pledged increased cooperation between the two states, adding that it was "imperative" for him to visit Jordan since King Hussein visited Egypt three times in the past few years.

"I came to Aqaba (and not Amman)... to stay away from formalities (and to hold talks) in a brotherly atmosphere. We will continue our cooperation for the benefit of the two countries," he said.

The mini-summit grouped Mr. Mubarak, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Mubarak said the mini-summit was not held to counter any other summit as "some might believe."

Those who criticised the summit before reading its final communiqué did so out of "bad intentions," Mr. Mubarak told reporters.

He said the meeting did not discuss issues other than those that were addressed in the final communiqué.

King Hussein said his talks with Mr. Mubarak, which started with a closed meeting between the two leaders before it was joined by officials from both sides, dealt with all issues of common concern at this time.

where it is heading." He expressed hope that Damascus would go through the negotiations until reaches just peace.

"Our hope is for more steps towards just and comprehensive peace to follow," the King said.

Mr. Mubarak's visit to Jordan was "an important step towards clearing Arab skies and in the pursuit of a common Arab understanding regarding Arab and regional issues," Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif told reporters.

Mr. Sharif, who accompanied Mr. Mubarak on the visit along with Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Economy Minister Mahmoud Mohammad and presidential adviser Osama Al Baz, said the Egyptian president's visit assumed special importance because it was the first since the Gulf war.

Jordanian-Egyptian ties deteriorated during the Gulf crisis due to the different stands the two countries took on it and were further strained after Egypt criticised the Kingdom's peace treaty with Israel.

Answering to a question whether Jordan and Egypt would take joint action to facilitate Syrian-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Mubarak said, "the Syrian track knows

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Cabinet finalises policy statement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers, in a meeting held Saturday, approved the government's statement which will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday for a vote of confidence from the legislature. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Talks open today on displaced

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian officials are to meet here Sunday to prepare a joint position on refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Palestinian officials said.

Naruhito meets emir of Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako met the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on Saturday on the first day of a Middle East tour aimed at strengthening ties with the oil-rich region. The official Kuwait News Agency KUNA said senior officials were present at the meeting.

PFLP-GC says 6 fighters killed

BEIRUT (AFP) — Six guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) were killed in an attack on an Israeli patrol in South Lebanon Thursday, the group announced Saturday. In a statement issued here, the PFLP-GC said the six victims consisted of two Tunisians, including the 38-year-old leader of the commando unit, two Palestinians and two Syrians.

French aid worker remains captive

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The U.N. Operation in Somalia reported Saturday that a kidnapped French aid worker had been released — then retracted the announcement after a flood of denials. The aid agency International Action Against Famine (IAAF) said 24-year-old logistical worker Rudy Marquay was still being held in Mogadishu after his abduction on Dec. 17 by gunmen.



A Japanese search and rescue team searches for victims of the earthquake that struck rooftops of collapsed buildings in Kobe looking Tuesday (AFP photo)

Rescue in high gear in Kobe; deaths near 5,000

KOBE (Agencies) — Crews pulled three elderly people to safety Saturday from the wreckage of their homes as Japan's rescue effort rolled into high gear four days after the country's deadliest earthquake in more than 70 years.

The death toll from Tuesday's quake passed 4,800. One of the strongest aftershocks since the quake shook the Kobe area late Saturday. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the intensity 4.1 jolt.

Heavy rains were forecast for Sunday, and officials feared a strong downpour could unleash mud slides and topple buildings weakened by the quake.

Police said the death toll climbed Saturday to 4,863 with the recovery of more bodies. Rescuers accelerated efforts to find the 230 others still listed as missing.

Nearly 25,000 people were injured in the quake and more than 50,000 buildings severely damaged or destroyed. Thousands have taken refuge in shelters or have camped out in vacant lots.

"Finding the last citizens who are trapped, that's our top priority right now," city

spokesman Tomoaki Watanabe said. "We're using the (tracker) dogs all over trying to check every house. We're still finding people."

Six hundred people occupying 200 homes were evacuated in the Higashinada district of eastern Kobe after a landslide Saturday afternoon, local officials said. Another 285 were forced to leave their homes because of road fissures.

Experts feared the cracks could grow and engulf nearby houses. Civil defence officials evacuated another 106 people across the city because of walls feared to be on the verge of collapse.

The authorities issued an urgent warning that a heavy rainstorm expected Saturday night could bring new landslides.

They brought in big tents to house an additional 3,800 of the estimated 190,000 homeless, many of whom are living in plastic shanty towns in city parks.

Shojoji Kawakami, head of the fire department, said there were 349 areas considered under high risk for landslides, with the homes of 10,000 people under threat.

Troops taking part in the

(Continued on page 7)

Fight over W. Bank settlement turns into battle over Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — On the eve of a crucial cabinet debate on Jewish settlements, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that Israel would not seize additional West Bank lands, but would continue to allow private construction in settlements.

According to leaks ahead of Sunday's meeting, the housing ministry is planning 30,000 housing units in and around East Jerusalem in the next three to four years.

Left-wing government ministers are demanding a halt to building outside Jerusalem.

Hawkish opposition politicians said Saturday that if the government decided to curb construction in the satellite settlements, it would signal to the Palestinians that Israel is ready to eventually give back all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

This, warned Benjamin Netanyahu of the right-wing Likud Party, would be met by broad popular opposition.

"Rabin has to know that if he doesn't lift the constraints on construction around Jerusalem, he will bring about the

fall of his government," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel army radio.

Hardline Israelis claim that the West Bank satellite settlements circling Jerusalem in a radius of roughly 15 kilometres are part of "greater Jerusalem" and should not be part of the public debate on settlements.

Army radio said a majority of ministers from Mr. Rabin's Labour Party supported a continued government-backed building drive in satellite settlements such as Maale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Betar and Gush Etzion (see page 2). Today some 40,000 Israelis live there.

Mr. Peres said that should the government decide to freeze public construction in the satellite settlements, this would not mean an end to growth there.

"Buildings which are necessary for normal life, like schools, even like private apartments, are not going to stop," Peres told Israel Radio on Saturday.

"But we are not going to

build new settlements, to confiscate land or to enlarge territorially the existing settlements," he said.

Mr. Beilin said meanwhile that by continuing its construction campaign in the satellite settlements, Israel would prematurely draw attention to the status of Jerusalem proper.

"The struggle for Jerusalem has to be central in our minds," Mr. Beilin said. "Until today, we don't have a recognised capital, as far as the world is concerned. Here (in Jerusalem), we will face our biggest struggle. After that, let's talk about other places."

Members of Mr. Arafat's self-rule government demanded Saturday that Israel freeze all construction in settlements, whether public or private.

"President Arafat told Prime Minister Rabin in their last meeting that settlements and peace are like two parallel lines. They can never meet," said Saeb Erekat, minister of local affairs.

Fighting moves outside Grozny

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russia's army beefed up its forces around the Chechen capital of Grozny on Saturday and reportedly dealt heavy artillery and air attacks on villages elsewhere in the breakaway republic.

After a few hours' rare calm in the Chechen capital, Russian forces reportedly renewed harsh shelling of the city centre later in the day.

Still defying the odds and Russia's overwhelming military advantage, Chechen fighters clung stubbornly to positions inside the capital. President Dzhokhar Dudayev met with his commanders in a bunker just 500 metres from his former palace, the Chechens claimed.

But, in a separate report, TASS said Russian troops had shelled Minutka Square near the centre of Grozny and one of its suburbs during the night. Chechen forces fired at Russian servicemen and blew up a bridge across the Sunzha River.

Interfax news agency quoted an official in the neighbouring region of Ingushetia as saying "fierce fighting between federal troops and Chechen groups with the use of heavy weapons" took place in the settlement of Assinovskaya near the Chechen-Ingush border west of Grozny.

"Russian aviation joined the fighting when Chechens started pushing the Russian soldiers out of the settlement," he said.

Official information from the government press service, published by Interfax news

Iraq may accept partial oil sales

BAGHDAD (Agencies) —

Iraq is ready to resume technical talks on partial oil exports if the United Nations agrees to soften its conditions for such sales, Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said in remarks published on Saturday.

"Our leadership has said that at any time the U.N. allows Iraq to export oil for the purchase of food and medicine without unfair conditions violating sovereignty... even one million barrels... why not?" Baghdad newspapers quoted Mr. Aziz as saying.

Under the partial sales scheme, Iraq would be able to sell up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil. About \$900 million of the proceeds would be available to buy humanitarian supplies badly needed by the country's sanctions-crippled population, with the remainder going for Gulf war reparations and to meet other costs stemming from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Diplomats in Baghdad said on Friday Iraq was willing to settle for partial exports provided that such an agreement would not block its efforts for an end to the oil embargo.

But a Security Council source at the United Nations pointed cold water on speculation that Iraq might finally be interested in selling a limited quantity of oil subject to U.N. monitoring.

"We discussed this with Tareq Aziz absolutely directly and there was no suggestion whatsoever of any movement. I see no reason why they would want to go down this road," the source added.

Mr. Aziz said in his comments Saturday dialogue with the U.N. "must not affect Iraq's main urgent goal —

Kuwait.

Mr. Aziz said he discussed the sales with Britain's U.N. ambassador, Sir David Hannay, when in New York.

"I think he (Hannay) leans towards resolutions 706 and 712 with a degree of softening in conditions," Mr. Aziz was quoted on Saturday as saying.

He said Iraq would follow up the matter with the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to see "whether he has new ideas."

The last round of talks was held in July 1993. The two sides almost reached agreement, with Baghdad accepting most of the terms except the positioning of U.N. monitors inside Iraq to supervise the handing out of humanitarian supplies.

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(Continued on page 7)



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chairs a seminar on the role of Arab women in urban development (Petra photo)

Princess Basma opens seminar on role of Arab women in urban development

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a seminar on the role of Arab women in urban development by calling on Arab women to work collectively in helping their communities deal with socio-economic issues and confronting common challenges.

Women's issues in general and particularly women's role in public life are attracting the attention of various nations; such issues are of a magnitude that require the efforts of both women and men, said the Princess at the opening session.

In the last few decades, the role of women has developed and become more prominent largely because of educational opportunities open to them on equal footing with men, Princess Basma said.

Poverty and its adverse consequences represent a general framework for socio-economic problems in any society, said Princess Basma, adding that all de-

velopment plans can in no way achieve their objectives unless they are applicable and help uproot the causes of poverty.

Organised by the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs (JNCWA), in cooperation with the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the meeting is attended by delegates from eight Arab countries in addition to Jordan.

The participants to the two-day meeting, which is part of preparations for the U.N.-sponsored conference on Habitat due to be held in Turkey in June 1996, will tackle issues related to Arab women's needs and responsibilities, and preparations for the coming conference at the Arab level, and will revise a draft Arab declaration on habitat to be submitted to the conference.

Princess Basma, who is president of the Jordanian committee, paid tribute to the role of the various United Nations agencies and the non-governmental

organisations which she said aided government efforts in dealing with many of the problems related to women.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour addressed the opening session, calling on Arab women to activate their roles and increase their participation in the formulation of policies, programmes and projects related to habitat. He said habitat questions have a direct effect on women and their role in bringing up a family.

Referring to problems of major cities, the minister said that most of the housing projects in developing countries are conducted at random, without proper planning.

In many of the Arab cities, the needs of women are neglected, the cities are planned, lacking the elements of sustainable development, and they are places where most of the poor, who form 25 per cent of the Arab population, live, said Mr. Ensour.

The two-day forum, the first of its kind to be held in Jordan, aims at giving a detailed picture of the IMF and what parameters it applies while discussing the economics of its 179 member states and possible financial assistance for fiscal restructuring wherever seen necessary.

The basic principle that guides the IMF is that it is a "completely voluntary" organisation which does not seek to impose its will on any country, said Ahmad Abushadi, a senior official of the Washington-based body.

"Any country could join and leave the organisation whenever it wants," Mr. Abushadi told the first working session of the forum, organised by the Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies, an Amman-based agency of the Arab League.

The IMF offers advice and recommendations in a strict advisory capacity as its first task, and if it does not oblige anybody to undertake any specified programmes as part of its function," said Mr. Abushadi.

But if the IMF was approached by a member state with a request for financial aid to "address temporary structural problems in economy," then the world body would closely study the situation of the individual country and come up with definite conditions attached to the financing, he said.

"We have to make sure that the (beneficiary country) is in a position to repay the credit facility, and as such, the lending role of the IMF is conditional on economic reforms," said Mr. Abushadi, whose presentation was entitled, "The Role and Functions of the IMF."

Effectively, that would mean that if any country wants credit from the IMF to address its economic problem, then it also has to be

nomic straits could secure IMF help in return for basic self-reliance oriented reforms that, in the long run, would be more beneficial than the short-term negativity.

To ensure that countries abide by the agreement to implement reforms, the IMF releases credits in tranches with a view to "monitoring the (phased) implementation of the corrective measures."

Mr. Maciejewski told the gathering, attended mostly by government officials dealing with economic issues and a few media representatives and columnists who cover economic news.

Offering technical advice on various aspects of economy and exchanging information are the third and fourth tasks of the IMF, which is administered by a 24-member board of governors, elected every two years.

In the second working session on Saturday, Mr. Maciejewski discussed, "IMF-supported Macroeconomic Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment: An Evolving Process."

A group discussion was held in the afternoon under the title "Economic Policy, Public Interest and the Role of the Media."

On Sunday, Mr. Maciejewski will present "Design

of IMF-Supported Structural Adjustment Programmes — Key Policy Instruments and Structural Reform Components."

In the second session during the day, Mr. Abushadi and Mr. Maciejewski will present "Economic Reform in the Arab Countries and Future Challenges."

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saed Nabulsi will address the third session and chair a panel discussion on "The IMF and the Arab Countries."

Highlighted during Saturday's meetings were the key differences between the IMF and the World Bank. The lecturers sought to emphasize that the workings of the two institutions were distinctly different in terms of scope as well as definite areas covered.

First and foremost, the IMF acts in a consultative and advisory capacity to all governments, the World Bank assists the general development process.

While the World Bank's work is strictly limited to helping developing countries attain self-reliance and cost efficiency through specific programmes in the various sectors of the economy, the IMF deals with and is available for consultations to all its 179 member countries.

The specific objective of the IMF is to ensure the work of the IMF.

sound economic performance of countries largely on the external front, particularly when the actions of one country could negatively affect another which might have economic links with the former. The World Bank's task is to launch initiatives that would address basic flaws in internal economic approaches through tailored development programmes.

The Amman forum is held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, who was represented at the opening session by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki.

At the opening session, Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies Director-General Musa Hodeida said the forum, formally titled "International Monetary Fund and the Arab Countries: Present and Future," was the first "annual press and media forum" to be organised by the institute.

He said the institute was planning to highlight one particular issue every year under this banner.

Dr. Nabulsi also addressed the meeting, emphasising the importance of a free exchange of views — "a media dialogue" — and in-depth briefing of the media on the complexities related to the work of the IMF.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb Saturday presides over a seminar on quality management and ISO 9000 (Petra photo)

Commerce groups sign economic agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce Saturday signed an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce responsible for the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors in the Gaza Strip, paving the way for close cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Signed by Haidar Murad, president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, and the Gaza chamber chairman, Mohammad Qudweh, the agreement provides for the two sides to exchange expertise and conduct direct contacts and consultations over trade matters, according to an Amman Chamber of Commerce statement.

The two sides pledged to cooperate in and coordinate matters concerning mutual trade as well as trade with other Arab and foreign countries.

Organise joint trade and industrial exhibitions and exchange information and visits by officials on a regular basis, said the statement.

Under the agreement, the Amman chamber will organise

training courses for the Gaza chamber staff and will offer Gaza investors all possible related facilities.

In statements upon signing the accord, Mr. Murad and Mr. Qudweh emphasised the unique and strong ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, stressing the need for more efforts on the part of the private sectors on both sides to contribute towards economic and trade integration.

They also expressed hope that the agreement would advance trade exchanges and serve as a bridge for strengthening ties.

Last week, the chambers of commerce of Amman and Nablus signed a protocol to promote trade and investments in Jordan and Palestine, and the Nablus chamber also signed an agreement with the Amman Chamber of Industry on cooperation in exchange of information and participation in events organised by the Jordanian industrial community.

Iraq may accept limited oil sales

(Continued from page 1)

implementation of article 22 of U.N. Resolution 687.

The article allows Iraq to resume oil exports once its weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled and long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes has been launched — conditions Baghdad argues it has already fulfilled.

Iraq used to produce 3.2 million barrels per day (bpd) before the U.N. sanctions were imposed.

Mr. Aziz said the next U.N. Security Council meeting on the sanctions would be "more favourable towards Iraq" because the United States was "more and more isolated."

In an allusion to France, Russia and China, which have called for an easing of the international embargo, Mr. Aziz said the attitude of some Security Council members was changing "in a way which could isolate the United States and Britain even more."

The U.N. Security Council renewed the embargo for another two months on January 10.

Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad said Wednesday

Iraq could become the second largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries once the U.N. oil embargo was lifted.

Organised at the Phi-

ladelphi Hotel in cooperation with the ISO, the German Institute for Standardisation, the German Society for Quality and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the meeting is attended by delegations from Jordan as well as Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait and Syria, representing various private and public industrial organisations.

The meeting, held under the theme "Quality Management and ISO-9000," will discuss managing industrial businesses, standardisation, and other related issues, and will focus on case studies from the participating as well as industrialised nations.

In his address to the meeting Mr. Abu Ragheb said standardisation is a major element to helping a country absorb modern technology, ensuring economic development, encouraging investment and increasing the production of quality products.

Arab CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION

The exhibition contains paintings, sculptures, prints, watercolours, and ceramics by famous Arab artists.

Location: Mona Saudi Studio

Abdoun Village - Tel.: 629700

Exhibition runs from Thursday, Jan. 19th

- until Saturday Jan. 28th, 1995.

Daily from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Directions: Take road opposite gate of American Embassy. Road turns to right at end. Take 1st turn left, 2nd house on right between pine trees.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Film entitled "Amadeus" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Is There an Israeli Literature?" by Mr. Salim Hazeem at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhrir Muhammad at the Al'ad Art Gallery.

Exhibition of "Arab Contemporary Art" at Mona Saudi studio, Abdoun

village (Tel. 829700).

Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.

Exhibition of works by Spanish artist Covadonga Sarraga at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

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4 World News

Fear grips Tokyo residents in wake of Kobe disaster

TOKYO (AFP) — Dramatic images of the Kobe earthquake and alarmist media forecasts have heightened fears among Tokyo residents of another "Big One" in the capital, boosting sales of emergency supplies and survival kits.

"Kobe forces you to think about the risks. A lot of people I know tried to find out what to do and where to go after a quake," said Yuko, a young student.

"My father, who is the president of a bank, held a meeting with his colleagues to discuss how to supply cash to customers in a disaster," she said.

A day after the Tuesday quake, department stores here opened sections specialising in the sale of survival kits which all households are supposed to have. The kits include torches, helmets, fire-resistant masks, first-aid kits, rope ladders, candles, dehydrated food and survival blankets.

Stocks of emergency supplies quickly dried up, especially the stocks of fireproof bags which contain everything needed to survive for a few days.

Some stores have since been directing their customers to the camping goods section, leading to a similar boom in tent and sleeping bag sales.

Newspapers are hardly reassuring for residents of Tokyo, ravaged by a huge earthquake in 1923 which left 140,000 people dead.

On Saturday, newspapers published simulations

of what would happen in Tokyo if a quake similar to the Kobe tremor hit the capital.

If such a quake struck at six o'clock in the evening, it would kill and injure an estimated 860,000 people, while a pre-dawn quake like the one in Kobe would claim 68,000 victims.

Within minutes of a quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, the Japanese capital would be engulfed by about a thousand fires — compared with 200 in Kobe — and 154 hectares would be destroyed in the first hour.

On Friday, the Japan Times, an English-language newspaper widely read by foreigners, inflamed the fears of an expatriate population already alarmed.

The number of quakes strong enough to be felt by people has increased sharply in the Tokyo area since December. Ten such quakes were reported last month and the same number has been reported so far this month, prompting fears that a major earthquake could hit soon," the newspaper said.

But such activity, "could merely be a coincidence," an official at the meteorological agency was quoted as saying.

Claude Gernot, director of the Lycee Franco-Japonais in Tokyo, said his high school wasn't taking any chances.

"Before the Kobe earthquake, this abnormal seismic activity had led us to plan evacuation and fire-fighting exercises next

week," he said.

But parents are alarmed.

"We've really been disturbed by the breakdown in relief activities in Kobe," one mother said. "We're realising that it's not as safe as they say."

Meetings between teachers and parents have led to plans for new safety measures, notably the security of furniture and the reinforcing of classroom windows to prevent injuries from shattered glass.

Fears of a major quake in Tokyo have long been taken seriously by the school which adopts the same measures as Japanese schools.

During the summer holidays last year, the old building which houses the school was reinforced with 26 metal supports weighing two tonnes. Each of the 320 students has a helmet, water supplies, food and survival blankets.

Evacuation exercises take place once a year and the older kids in charge of the younger children "take their role very seriously," Mr. Gernot said.

On Saturday, the national television network Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) tried to reassure viewers by showing basic survival techniques such as how to cook on a stove made from beer cans and how to carry water in plastic bags.

"We shouldn't dramatise the situation but given the current mood, a lot of foreigners will be leaving with the first major tremor," Gernot said.



Rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed house in Nishinomiya, western Japan (AFP photo)

Earthquake damage at a glance

KOBE (AP) — A brief outline of casualties and damage in the earthquake that struck the Kobe region, as of early Saturday morning:

Casualties: 4,555 dead, 665 missing, more than 23,760 injured, making Tuesday's quake Japan's most deadly since the 1923 Tokyo quake, in which more than 142,000 died.

Cities: In descending order of fatalities: Kobe, Takarazuka, Nishinomiya, Ashiya, Awaji Island and Osaka. Treasured Buddha statues and a five-story pagoda built in 951 in the ancient capital, Kyoto, suffered minor damage.

Buildings: More than 44,680 destroyed or badly damaged.

Electricity: Because of damage to transmission lines or substations, a blackout continued for 110,000 households, according to Kansai Electric Co.

Gas: 849,500 households were without gas, according to Osaka Gas Co. Service was suspended because of fears of leaks from damaged pipelines.

Water: Water supply to about one million households was suspended because of pipe damage, according to the health and welfare ministry.

Ports: Kobe's port, which handles more than 12 per cent of Japan's exports, closed except for emergency use. Ferry terminals also closed. The Ministry of Transport assessing damage to determine when they might reopen.

Highways: Hanshin Expressway, a major artery between Osaka and Kobe, collapsed in five places, including one 500-metre (550-yard) section; 12 drivers reported killed as their cars fell from the highway. Bay coast highway in Osaka collapsed on section of reclaimed land; two killed. Other national roads damaged at 20 sites.

Railroads: Lines for the high-speed "bullet" trains damaged at 36 places over a length of about 90 kilometres. One link restored to service. Railroad officials estimate at least three months will be needed for repairs to track and bridges.

A ski train with 200 passengers and nine other trains derailed, with seven people reported injured.

Airports: Kobe is served by Osaka Airport and Kansai International Airport, on a manmade island off Osaka. Neither suffered major damage, and service continued.

Kashmir faces food shortage after avalanche

JAMMU, India (R) — The Kashmir valley is facing a serious food shortage with supplies held up by avalanches that halted traffic on a key Himalayan highway in India's worst snow disaster, residents said Saturday.

"Srinagar's lifeline has been cut off," Nazir Ahmad, a resident of the summer capital of the northernmost state of Jammu and Kashmir, told Reuters by telephone. "There is little to eat and we are in trouble."

Massive landslides blocked the strategic national highway that links Jammu, the winter capital, with Srinagar.

Srinagar is usually in the news for a Muslim separatist uprising in the state.

The army airlifted 40 tonnes of rations and charcoal to Srinagar, an official in the city said, adding a relief camp was set up in downtown Srinagar to house 350 victims.

Police said about 110 people were killed by the avalanches, but authorities in New Delhi have confirmed only 60 deaths. Unconfirmed reports say 250 may have been killed.

Vegetables, mutton, chicken and eggs, which have to come from the southern region to snowbound Kashmir in winter, were in short supply, Mr. Ahmad said. They cost twice as much as usual, and the price of kerosene has shot up six times, he said.

Only pulses and turnips were freely available, he said.

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Officials who were tracking vehicles that left Srinagar last Sunday said three private buses were abandoned and

bad weather was disrupting relief work, he said.

The army and air force have rescued about 5,000 stranded people but 48 more — 17 women, 16 children and 15 seniors — are trapped inside the Jawahar tunnel after snow and avalanches cut off a key Himalayan highway, officials said in Jammu.

The army air dropped blankets and boots near the two-mile long tunnel which is 90 kilometres south of Srinagar, they said.

Traffic has been disrupted for six days.

Officials who were tracking vehicles that left Srinagar last Sunday said three private buses were abandoned and

one was missing, and 24 state-run buses were stranded and eight missing. At least 600 cargo trucks and an unknown number of private vehicles were also trapped.

Some 240 passengers trekked to safety through three-metre deep snow for 10 kilometres from the tunnel that forms part of the 290 kilometre highway.

Hundreds of people were housed in schools and army camps and provided with food and medicine, officials said.

The highway, known for its snow and winds, was closed for the first two months of every year before the tunnel was built in the 1950s.

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World News

Break-in brings more prison trouble for Brits

LONDON (R) — Fighting in the Bihać pocket in north-west Bosnia subsided on Saturday but the United Nations reported minor violations of a three-week ceasefire, including an exchange of gunfire in Sarajevo.

Two Bosnian Serbs and a government soldier were wounded late on Friday in a small-arms duel centred on the Serb-held district of Gravica in the Bosnian capital, U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

The incident began when soldiers of Bosnia's Muslim army opened fire on the area and the Serbs responded, he said.

Two loud explosions were heard at midnight but the district was quiet on Saturday morning. The reasons behind the clash were not immediately known.

Mr. Coward said Bosnia

was generally quiet with clashes easing in the Bihać pocket.

The U.N. reported nine explosions west of Bihać town and 55 east and south-east of Velika Kladusa, north of Bihać, in fewer than one-tenth of the detonations counted on Thursday.

Despite the calm, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, head of U.N. forces in Bosnia, told reporters on Friday that the ceasefire process was losing momentum as the Bosnian government and Serb forces were dragging their feet over pledges made in the new year's U.N.-brokered accord.

"Things are not going as rapidly as we hoped," said Rose, who ends his year-long assignment in Bosnia Jan. 24. "What people are waiting for is a sign of political movement, particularly by the Bosnian Serbs, before com-

mitting to implementation procedures," he said.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter helped forge the most serious ceasefire agreement so far in the 33-month old war, which has seen countless similar truces collapse.

The agreement was intended to halt hostilities for the next four months and envisaged several confidence-building measures to enable the rivals to negotiate a political settlement to end the worst crisis in Europe since World War II.

Signs of fresh discord between Bosnian Croats and Muslims emerged in the southern city of Mostar, threatening the federation the two sides set up last year after some of the most ferocious fighting seen in Bosnia.

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mitting to implementation procedures," he said.

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This delegation shows how great is our wish to help bring about the agreements on the EU administration in Mostar, which Croatia... fully supports," Mr. Valentini told Croatian radio.

Mostar's administrator Hans Koschnick, a German appointed by the EU to try to reconcile Muslims and Croats, had accused the Croats of blocking his efforts to reunite the city, return refugees to their homes and rebuild trust.

Mostar is regarded as a potential symbol of Muslim-Croat reconciliation and any threat to rebuilding the shattered city could unravel the already fragile federation. The alliance has come

under strain after international contact group mediators trying to forge peace in the republic reportedly shifted its position to permit a constitutional link between the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia.

This has led Bosnian Croat nationalists to believe that the international community has effectively accepted the Serbs and Serbia.

A report in Saturday's New York Times indicated a further diplomatic shift on the part of the United States, saying Washington may open talks with Bosnian Serb leaders.

The paper said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the Bosnian government in a letter that the latest truce had created "a possible opportunity to renew the negotiations" with the Serbs which "we should not allow to pass by."

Balladur rallies centrists as socialists seek peace

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, runaway favourite to succeed President François Mitterrand in May, Saturday secured the backing of the small but influential centrist party.

On the other side of the political spectrum, socialist leaders cautioned that rivalry between candidates seeking their party's nomination was becoming a fratricidal war which could prevent a socialist from reaching the run-off phase of the two-stage poll on April 23 and May 7.

Education Minister François Bayrou, leader of the Social Democratic Centre (CDS), said in an interview published on Saturday in the daily *Le Monde* that moderate conservative Mr. Balladur was the best placed to spearhead a coalition straddling the political centre.

"All those who form a majority which until now has been dispersed and powerless in France must unite in a party for government stretching from the centre-right to the centre-left," Mr. Bayrou added.

Dismissing Mr. Balladur's RPR rival Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, he was quoted as saying that an overwhelming majority of the leadership of the CDS, which has seven seats in Mr. Balladur's cabinet, would formally rally behind the premier at a meeting in Paris later Saturday.

As the Balladur steamroller drew extra momentum from centrist support the prime minister has a 60 to 40 per cent lead over rivals in opinion polls — the socialists



Edouard Balladur

alliance) will realise Mr. Balladur has the authority necessary to shape France's future. He unites people, he strikes a chord with people of different persuasions. His aim is to reconcile the French," Mr. Bayrou added.

The new alliance, he added, could unite part of Mr. Balladur's Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) and his centre-right ruling partner the Union for French Democracy, as well as the Republican Party, some socialists and "realist greens."

"People behind the new

S. Korea welcomes easing of U.S. sanctions against North

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea on Saturday welcomed the easing of U.S. sanctions against North Korea for the first time since the 1950-53 war and urged Pyongyang to start improving its still-rosty relations with Seoul.

The government of the Republic of Korea hopes that the relaxation of the sanctions will help the North Koreans open their country to the outside world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-Ho said.

Chang added that he hoped the communist government in Pyongyang would seek progress in inter-Korean dialogue to gain a further relaxation of the cold war economic barriers that have been in place for the past 45 years.

Washington, which is moving towards cautious rapprochement with Pyongyang in line with the Oct. 21 nuclear accord, closely consulted Seoul on the timing and scope of the measures before the announcement was made in the U.S. capital Friday, he said.

Initial press reaction was guarded in South Korea, where 37,000 U.S. troops are bolstering a tense front line face-off with almost one million North Korean troops across the heavily fortified Sun.

Royal employees sign contracts in which they promise to keep their work confidential.

But Piers Morgan, editor of the News of the World, said Mr. Stronach approached his paper and met with its "Royal editor," Clive Goodman, at a hotel near Heathrow Airport on Nov. 22.

Term limits for members of Congress to be decided

WASHINGTON (USA) — Two new Republican senators have offered legislation aimed at making good on campaign promises to limit terms in Congress, and discussion continues within the Republican Party on how long House members should be allowed to serve.

He said the U.S. intends to maintain 100,000 troops in Europe as well as its forward-based troops in the Asia-Pacific area, including the 37,000 in South Korea.

While the focus of the Clinton administration's increase in defence spending will be to improve readiness, Mr. Stronach said, "I want to emphasise that there is no intention to change our commitments abroad."

A constitutional amendment must gain a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress — 290 votes in the 435-member House and 67 votes in the 100-member Senate — and be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

In response to questions following the address, he said the U.S. does not have any quarrels with the religion of Islam, but he emphasised that "radicalism and extremism that prevents the operation of government and is involved in terrorism and killing" need to be resisted.

The amendment sets a seven-year deadline for ratification.

But Republicans who now control Congress are far from unanimous on term limits.

appeared set to descend deeper into fractious disarray.

Sérgio Royal, a rising party star, said the contest for the nomination involving leader Henri Emmanuelli, former party boss Lionel Jospin and former Culture Minister Jack Lang would prompt "old quarrels that have nothing to do with the election."

"If the nomination vote (Feb. 3) ends with a narrow result, the minority will challenge it. Given the intense tension in the party, how can we expect the minority to quietly join forces with the rest?" she asked.

Mr. Royal and other moderate socialists who had backed Jacques Delors as their candidate until he pulled out last month, appealed for an end to "manoeuvres and veiled battles whose only aim is control of the party." Mr. Delors stepped down this month after two terms as president of the European Commission, the European Union's Brussels-based executive.

The nomination bid by orthodox left-winger Emmanuel Emmanuelli drew support from about 40 regional party bosses and about 50 parliamentarians on Friday. But Mr. Lang, the most popular of the three in opinion polls, insisted the key issue was "who is the best-placed to mobilise opinion and eventually score a victory."

S. Korea welcomes easing of U.S. sanctions against North

leap issue as well as progress in other areas of concern."

Washington has been at pains to assure a distrustful Seoul that it will not develop relations with Pyongyang to the detriment of its southern ally, and has repeatedly urged the two sides to open talks on normalisation.

Though the North-South political and military standoff continues, the South's major trading companies have been flooding into North Korea in the past month, led by such giants as Daewoo, Samsung and Sanyang.

The sudden rush North followed the controversial lifting of a two-year-long ban on direct trade and investment prompted by the fears that Pyongyang was developing a nuclear bomb.

The South's President Kim Young-Sam lifted the direct trade ban late last year after the October nuclear accord was signed, stressing that he hoped it would help open up the world's most reclusive state.

Mr. Kim followed the lowering of trade barriers with a provision allowing South Koreans to send gifts and small amounts of cash to relatives in North Korea, whose rigidly-controlled economy has disintegrated since the collapse of the East Bloc.

S. Africans sigh with relief as Mandela, de Klerk make up

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South Africans sighed with relief Saturday after President Nelson Mandela and his deputy, Frederik de Klerk resolved a dispute that had threatened the country's fledgling post-apartheid government.

Expressing his relief, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said if the "confusion, turmoil and agitation" had not been resolved "the country would have paid a high price."

The crisis was sparked by a furious row over whether or not two ex-ministers and 3,500 policemen had been granted immunity from prosecution in the final days of Mr. de Klerk's National Party (NP) government.

"We can only thank God that the two leaders have settled their personal differences," the Citizen newspaper said in an editorial. "The NP remains in the GNU and the immediate crisis has been resolved."

The Star said the GNU was "non-negotiable, no matter how much irritation it inflicts upon the bedfellows."

"Like spouses who take their marriage vows seriously, they had better resign themselves to the partnership they promised," it said.

But Mr. de Klerk had another dig at the ANC Saturday, when he accused the organisation of being "out of step."

"They are still working with the Communist Party," he said at the close of the NP's three-day congress here.

"They are out of step regarding minority rights... the ANC's policy is majority domination."

"More and more people who voted for the ANC are becoming disillusioned with them, we must talk to them and try and persuade them to be with us," he said. "We want to be the winning party."

But Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk agreed to disagree.



Nelson Mandela

our welfare."

The crisis at one point brought into question the presence of the NP in the government dominated by Mr. Mandela's African National Congress. The conflict was only resolved after a hastily-convened crisis meeting Friday where Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk pledged a "fresh start."

"Our discussion succeeded in clearing up the misunderstandings with regard to all the specific relevant issues and in re-establishing mutual trust and confidence," they said after the meeting. "We wish to express our acceptance of one another's good faith and integrity."

But Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk agreed to disagree.

Greenpeace slams Germany, Japan on nuclear stockpiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading environmentalist group sharply criticised Germany, and to a lesser extent Japan, for undermining international nuclear non-proliferation efforts by amassing stockpiles of fissile materials.

A Greenpeace International report released Friday also attacked the "Japanese-German plutonium axis" for opposing U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal for a worldwide ban on stockpiles of plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

"In the last year, the German government has expressed its fears over the proliferation of grams of plutonium" smuggled from the former Soviet Union, said the report. "A far greater threat lies in its own plutonium programme."

Titled "Germany, plutonium and proliferation: The unstated threat," the report said the country has built up a stockpile of at least 2.5 tonnes of plutonium, "the central status symbol of German nuclear diplomacy."

It said much of the material is derived from a reprocessing plant in Karlsruhe and is stored in a secretive "state bunker" just outside Frankfurt am Main, Japan maintains a similar but smaller facility, the report said.

Mr. Kuntzel added: "There are indications there is not only reactor plutonium in the bunker, but also highly enriched weapons-grade plutonium."

The report warned that growing stockpiles subvert international confidence in the future of the non-proliferation treaty and strengthen advocates of nuclear arms programmes in Third World countries like Pakistan, India and North Korea.

"Germany, like Japan and other countries, retain their plutonium stockpiles as political bargaining chips," the report said. "As such they are an unacceptable example of nuclear proliferation."

It urged Germany to renounce immediately all separation of plutonium and production and use of highly enriched uranium. The document also demanded that Bonn liquidate its stockpile at Hanau, which it described as one of the largest in the world.

Despite that, it said, "the

rebels said they would start killing hostages unless foreign nations, particularly Britain, stop arming the military government they've been fighting for three years, a Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The rebellion against the government of capt. Valentine Strasser, who seized power in 1992, has forced about 1.5 million people from their homes. Palmer was not able to estimate the number of deaths because much of the fighting is in remote areas. Fighting has

intensified in recent months and spread closer to the capital Freetown.

Britain's foreign office confirmed that Peter White and Andrew Young were taken hostage Friday in fighting at Sierra Rutile, a titanium dioxide mine 80 miles (130 kms) southeast of Freetown co-owned by Nord and by Consolidated Rutile Ltd. of Australia. It is the world's second biggest producer of rutile, used for paint pigment.

Nord Resources said one Sierra Leone and two British nationals were kidnapped. It said the mine was defended by local troops. It said Sierra Rutile employs about 2,000 people including 20 expatriates, most of whom are British, and 130 other contract personnel, mostly Malaysian.

Rutile spokesman Philip Palmer said 300 employees — including 30 to 40 Westerners — and 100 Malaysians were evacuated by barge from an Atlantic Ocean dock not far from the mine. Palmer was unsure of the Westerners' nationalities.

The rebels said they would start killing hostages unless foreign nations, particularly Britain, stop arming the military government they've been fighting for three years, a Western diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

The report said the rebels had seized six people, killed five shot by African peacekeepers. However, the Nigerian leader of the intervention force, Maj.-Gen. John Inyang, said no one was killed.

Angry Liberians rioted in the capital Monrovia last week when the talks failed in Ghana. Witnesses said at least six people were killed, five shot by African peacekeepers. However, the Nigerian leader of the intervention force, Maj.-Gen. John Inyang, said no one was killed.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Road to recovery

THE VISIT of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday, his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and the statements made by the two leaders signal a significant and positive turn on the road to improved relations among Arab countries following the divide created by the Gulf war. Just prior to their war Jordan helped Egypt back into the Arab fold following years of isolation in the aftermath of the Camp David peace treaty with Israel. In the late 1980s Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen established the Arab Cooperation Council to complement the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. Those were the days when great hopes were pinned on Arab groups to get together and cooperate towards establishing a stronger Arab Nation.

However, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and the ensuing war shattered the Arab Order and led to a schism in the Arab body. Since then many facts have changed on the ground. Iraq was weakened as a result of the war and the sanctions that followed. The Gulf states felt vulnerable, increasingly turning their back on the rest of the nation and towards the West for protection. Meanwhile most Middle East countries, including Syria, took the strategic decision to pursue peace with Israel after decades of war.

When the four Arab parties — Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon — went to Madrid they did so with a divided and weakened nation behind them and only a minimum level of coordination among themselves. Sooner than later, the Oslo accords between the Palestinians and the Israelis ended even that level of coordination. And with a stumbling peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the latter started putting pressure on Syria to speed up bilateral negotiations and on Egypt to warm up relations.

This might have been one important reason why the Syrians, the Egyptians and the Saudis, who led the Arab coalition against Iraq, moved to reconsider Arab-Arab relations.

The new understanding now, as alluded to by Mr. Mubarak yesterday, is to reach a broad reconciliation among most Arab countries, which would strengthen positions in negotiations with Israel in particular and the West in general in the quest for reshaping the Middle East.

Should this indeed be the goal, the Arab World would no doubt need the good offices of His Majesty and Jordan's influence in both the Arab sphere and the world at large. Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia know that they can always bet on Jordan being the first to move in this direction because Jordanians have always believed that Arab unity is the only guarantee for Arab interests. Yet a lot of time has been lost so far and the Arabs cannot and need not waste more opportunities before they take their matters into their own hands.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MEETING in Aqaba Saturday between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak crowns the Jordanian diplomacy's efforts towards achieving the minimum level of solidarity among Arabs, said Al Ra'i daily in an editorial Saturday. Solidarity among Arabs has become a requirement under the present circumstances and in the light of developments in the peace process with Israel and in view of developments at the international scene, said the paper. The Aqaba summit confirms a fact that Egypt and Jordan hold the key towards bolstering ties among Arab countries in the North African continent and the Mashreq; and the meeting of their heads of state at this juncture is bound to pave the way for a wider base of coordination among Arab states, the paper continued. We hope that the two leaders would take steps towards bringing back Iraq into the Arab fold because without Iraq and without removing the traces of the consequences of the Gulf crisis, solidarity remains without meaning, added the paper.

A WRITER in Al Dustour related his experience in reviewing Palestinian newspapers in Gaza by saying he found them full of congratulations for the new members of the Jordanian government particularly Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kababiti who has close relatives in Gaza. Saleh Al Qallab said that the Palestinian papers carried obituaries of the late Sheikh Nafeef Al Karimsha who passed away in Jordan but who has close relatives in Tulkarm in the West Bank and other areas of the occupied Arab lands. Furthermore, he said, an official delegation from the Jordanian parliament was due in Nablus on Jan. 30.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

Judge government in 100 days

IT IS customary in democratic countries, where governments change from time to time, and where authority changes hands, that a new government is given a grace period or a honeymoon of 100 days during which harsh criticism is held back and no campaigns are waged against it. The purpose is to give the new team sufficient time to think, plan and act. Indicators of success or failure start to be seen only after such period. It is not perceived as fair to pre-judge any government during the first days of its tenure.

This implied grace period is known to every government, which can use it in one of two ways. The first is to enjoy a period of tranquility and rest, without pressures from Parliament, attacks from the media or negative comments in social gatherings. In this case, the government would use this period to prepare action.

The second is to implement controversial and unpopular measures and plans. In this case, the grace period is used to enable the government to be bold and aggressive while its back is safe and the opposition is not yet sufficiently organised and ready to assail the government and block its ability to move and act.

It is obviously very tempting to any new government to take the easy way, enjoy peace, organise its own house and think of what should be done. However, the government will be well-advised to use its honeymoon to implement or initiate implementation of all, or most, of what should be done. The new government does not need time to get acquainted with the current issues and to study the available options. The prime minister and his team are not outsiders. They were not far from the political, economic

and social spheres of the country. They are supposed to know what are the major issues at hand and must have thought and planned ahead of time. The new government is not going to approach its duties and responsibilities without a pre-determined agenda.

If the honeymoon expires without substantial accomplishments, we shall conclude that the government is actually without an agenda or a clear programme, and that its job is to run the day-to-day routine matters, process paperwork and react to developments if and when they arise.

If, on the other hand, the government has a mission to perform, and is armed with clear vision, a comprehensive programme and objectives that go beyond the generalities which are acceptable and good for all governments at all times, it has to begin implementation of its programmes promptly in order to gain the image of a dynamic government which can govern, can make decisions, does not yield to pressures and will not appear special interest groups and those with loud voices just to avoid headache and buy time.

Of course, we do understand some cautious waiting before the vote of confidence is secured from Parliament. The government should not give its opponents ammunition which they can use in the battle for confidence. Therefore, a vote of confidence should be obtained as early as possible, based on a flexible and general programme which allows the freedom of action later on. After that, we expect an immediate take-off and a season of action without hesitation.

1995 brings largest, most diverse agenda ever for arms control

By John D. Hofum

WITH THE downfall of the Soviet Union, many expected the need for arms control to disappear too. But in fact, the opposite has taken place: Arms control is more central than ever.

Far from a cold war relic, it is a prime element of our national security strategy.

While the bipolar nuclear standoff is largely over, we still must extract many of its sharp teeth. Only one of the START treaties is legally in force. Despite voluntary reductions, many thousands of weapons remain, and the START verification regime is only beginning to operate.

Furthermore, the Soviet-American arms competition has been replaced, as President Clinton has noted, by a world of "rampant arms proliferation, bitter regional conflicts, ethnic and nationalist tensions... and fanatics who seek to cripple the world's cities with terror." Consider the following:

— By reputable estimates, more than 40 countries now have the technical ability to develop nuclear weapons, if they so choose.

One thing is certain: 1995 is our one best chance to safeguard the NPT for all time.

1995 is also a decisive year for strategic arms control — particularly with implementation of START, and the mandate for early ratification of START II.

Rose Garden ceremonies are nice, but the promise of arms control isn't fulfilled until agreed reductions are verifiably made. And when these particular obligations are fulfilled, we will shrug the "window of vulnerability" many saw as the consequence of the heavy Soviet MIRVed ICBMs that are on their way to extinction — along with two thirds of all deliverable strategic warheads — when both START treaties are implemented.

— Missiles — with much longer ranges, greater payloads, and higher accuracy than Iraq's Scuds — are more accessible.

North Korea is working on the Tai-Pei Dong, with a range of several thousand kilometres, and sees missile exports as a source of hard currency earnings — as, apparently, does China.

We believe that more than two dozen countries — many hostile to us — have chemical weapons programs.

— The leading proliferators of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons tend to be found in some of the most unstable regions — the Korean Peninsula, South Asia, the Middle East.

Some suggest addressing all these threats by military build-up alone. But if the cold war taught us anything, it is the necessity of both military might and arms control. Arms control is threat control. Every weapon we can keep or take out of the hands of our potential adversaries is a weapon we do not have to spend much more, with less certain effect, to defend against.

So whatever one's ideology, abandoning arms control would be mistaken — and particularly senseless in 1995, as the United States addresses arms control missions that will fundamentally shape the nation's security for years to come. For this year we address the largest and most diverse arms control agenda in history.

Here are some key aspects of that agenda:

This spring, the fate of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be determined in the 25th-year review and extension conference. The NPT has never been more important than it is now, with access to technology wax-

ing, cold war disciplines waning, and rogue states hungering for nuclear arms. The NPT politically and legally enables all of our nuclear nonproliferation efforts, from North Korea to South Asia to Ukraine.

The NPT should be made permanent. Any other outcome would leave doubts about its dependability over the long term, and thus diminish its effect even in the short term.

But we are engaged in a real struggle. A number of countries are attracted to the self-defeating idea that the NPT should be held hostage, to be ransomed by a comprehensive test ban, further strategic disarmament, or something else. Others, like Iran, think it should be amended to make access to nuclear technology an automatic right of parties — as if we had no memory of what happened in Iraq... and, indeed, no clue about Iran itself.

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In 1995 we need to resolve the question of Anti-Ballistic Missile/Theatre Middle Defense (ABM/TMD) Demarcation, the dividing line between prohibited strategic defences and permitted theatre defences. I know that those negotiations are controversial in some quarters. But in my view, we must protect the enormous benefits of the treaty for strategic stability. At the same time, it is prudent to prepare defences against the existing threats facing us in the theatre context and also against the possible use of ballistic missiles by rogue states and potential adversaries could foreseeably acquire.

I am convinced that we can negotiate an agreement that protects the TMD technologies that need to be explored for effective theatre ballistic missile defence — including the Theatre High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system, which is ready to begin flight testing in February.

And to those supporters of the ABM Treaty who oppose our demarcation efforts, I say that it will not be protected by being fossilised. A treaty abandoned — however pristine — is without value.

So this is the year for us to

safeguard both capable theatre defences and the strategic benefit of the ABM Treaty.

1995 is also the final year of reductions under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFET). The United States will need to hold firm to protect the treaty against efforts to dilute it in the name of "humanisation," to weaken it by watering down its flank limits, or to refuse compliance with mandated reductions.

1995 is also the year we expect entry into force of Open Skies, opening the way for overflights of nations' territories from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

And in 1995 we will negotiate vigorously for a system aimed at improving compliance

with the enforcement of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

In 1995 we must ratify the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), to advance the president's landmarks initiative at this year's CCW review conference.

1995 will be the critical first year of implementation of the Framework Agreement to freeze and roll back North Korea's nuclear programme. This agreement — based not on trust, but on verified reciprocal steps by each side — is strongly in the U.S. interest.

Several of these efforts illustrate a major cross-cutting challenge for the United States in 1995: inaugurating the arms control implementation era. With new treaties like START, START II, the CWC, and Open Skies — plus others now in process such as the CTBT and the Fissile Cutoff — joining older agreements such as the NPT, ABM, CFE and others already in force, the United States faces a burgeoning mission in realising the benefits of arms control. We can sensitive to this because ACDA is the nation's agent for these efforts — combining expertise in negotiations, law, intelligence analysis, and technology to make sure that our treaty rights are respected.

Arms control agreements — including the many negotiated by Republican administrations, such as the START treaties and the CWC — do not tend themselves. Assuming they do is a bit like thinking that you've fed a hungry man by giving him a menu. As the implementation challenge grows, we cannot let budget pressures lead to the neglect of verification, monitoring and implementation assets.

So we have a mammoth arms control agenda in 1995. And with a growing focus on proliferation, we also live in a time when the arms control perspective urgently needs to be heard. During the cold war — when arms control was the main element in U.S.-Soviet relations and managing this conflict was its dominant mission — there was little chance that arms control imperatives would be overlooked. But that risk is far greater, now that arms control most often means pressing our non-proliferation goals with more than 150 nations — with most of whom we have many diplomatic, trade and other priorities besides arms control.

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JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995

U.S. and Russia work at a troubled relationship

By Carol Giacomo

Reuter

GENEVA — Two days of U.S.-Russian meetings this week produced plenty of talk and little apparent concrete action.

U.S. officials say Moscow has no clear plan for halting the conflict in Chechnya but U.S. warnings of unfavourable consequences if fighting continues in the breakaway region have been ringing hollow.

This shows the difficulty Washington is experiencing in working out a response to an internal dispute that has ramifications far beyond Russia's borders.

It is weakening a vitally important country and undermining its leader, Boris Yeltsin, who is still regarded by Washington as the best hope for reform.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher came to Geneva to deliver a stern message to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on the folly of Moscow's five-week military operation in Chechnya, in which thousands of civilians have been killed.

Publicly and privately, he said the operation was risking Russian legitimacy at home and abroad, jeopardising progress on democratic and economic reform and damaging ties with the United States and Europe.

"I can't predict exactly what these consequences are... but they are bound to be unfavourable," Mr. Christopher told reporters at start of the talks.

This threat virtually evaporated by the end of their talks on Wednesday. Mr. Kozyrev gave several rhetorical assurances to Mr. Christopher but little in the way of concrete commitments.

The Americans made much of Russia's offer to end the Chechen war by negotiating a ceasefire and holding elections, perhaps allowing international observers to monitor the polls.

Senior U.S. officials said they have serious doubts whether Mr. Kozyrev or anyone else had a formula for stopping the fighting.

They added that no date for Chechen elections was mentioned and Mr. Kozyrev made no promise on the election observers, only to "consider" allowing them in.

Similarly, while Mr. Kozyrev and Mr. Christopher launched a year-long dialogue on NATO's ties with Russia and broader

European security issues, Mr. Kozyrev did not commit himself to signing up to the alliance's Partnership for Peace programme.

Washington and its allies were angered when he balked at doing so publicly at a NATO meeting last month.

Russia continued to press a resistant United States to lift sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1991 Gulf war and the two countries remained at odds over Russian arms sales and Moscow's possible provision of nuclear reactors to Iran.

Features

Turkey continues search for U.S. officer and son

ANKARA (Agencies) — Joint U.S.-Turkish mountain patrols searched for a seventh day on Saturday for a missing U.S. Air Force officer and his 10-year-old son, apparently lost during a boy scout ski outing on Jan. 15.

A spokesman for the effort said the day's hunt, backed by helicopters and infra-red cameras, began early in the morning. He said no clues had been recovered.

U.S. authorities have vowed to search into next week for Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mike Couillard, 37, and his son Matthew.

But they acknowledged searchers are more likely to recover the bodies of the Americans than to find them alive.

"It is unlikely that anyone could survive in the snow that long — especially if they are hurt," said embassy spokeswoman Margarete Schmidt.

Officials believe Col. Couillard, who has had survival training, must have been injured. Otherwise, they say, he would have found his way out of the Karakaya ski resort, near Ankara, or managed to signal

to rescue teams.

They have also written off claims by the self-styled "Lebanon Freedom Fighters" — made in telephone calls — that they are holding the pair and demanding release of a pro-Iranian guerrilla from an Israel jail.

On Friday, Istanbul anti-terror police said they had detained a man for allegedly placing the hoax calls. However, Anatolian news agency later reported another call, saying the group was extending a deadline for the release of the guerrilla by 24 hours.

The latest caller, like the others, offered no evidence the pair was being held. The Pentagon has said it presumed the colonel and his son were lost in the snow.

Anatolia first reported Wednesday that the group claimed to have kidnapped the two and was demanding the release of Hadi Ali Dirani, who they described as a leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A former Lebanese fundamentalist chief voiced support for the previously unknown group, press reports said Saturday.

King, Mubarak hold summit

(Continued from page 1)

But a "successful" visit of Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to Cairo earlier this month seems to have opened the way for reconciliation between the only two Arab countries which have concluded peace treaties with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak's visit to the Kingdom came upon an invitation from King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qassem, Mr. Kabariti, Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abu Raghib and other officials.

Battles move outside Grozny

(Continued from page 1)

gency, said Moscow troops had in the last 24 hours continued combat action in the centre of Grozny."

Russia's spy chief said in an interview Saturday Russian forces are trying to capture Mr. Dudayev, still holed up in Grozny, and demanding unconditional surrender from separatist soldiers.

Sergei Stepanashin also hinted, in comments in the official army newspaper *Vrasnaya Zvezda*, that Russian forces had made a tactical error in not closing off the southern route out of Grozny sooner, allowing the rebels to be resupplied.

The head of Russia's federal counter intelligence service (FSK), formed to replace the Soviet KGB, said Mr. Dudayev was still sheltering in his well-prepared bunker

"He can hide for a fairly long time, but despite that we have the task of arresting him."

Mr. Stepanashin said there were no chances of negotiations ending the war.

The Chechens' only option is total surrender.

"I am categorically against negotiations with people representing the Dudayev regime," the FSK chief said.

But after an "unconditional" laying down of arms and an end to hostilities I am ready for talks with anyone, even Dudayev," he added.

The FSK made a mistake in dissolving a special forces group called Vymel after the dissolution of the KGB, Mr. Stepanashin said. It also should have closed the southern route from Grozny earlier, he added.

Rescue efforts in high gear

(Continued from page 1)

Criticism for the slow pace of desperately needed aid, admitted to parliament his coalition government's response to the quake had been "confused."

"It is imperative that we rethink and restructure our disaster-relief policies," Mr. Iriyama said.

The Japanese appeared to have recovered from the shock of the quake and have rallied to the challenge of rebuilding what had been one of the country's most cosmopolitan industrial centres.

Mr. Watanabe said electricity had been restored to much of the city, although more than 850,000 households in Kobe and the surrounding Kyogo prefecture were still without water and natural gas.

Many small shops reopened, although most large supermarkets, banks and department stores remained closed four days after the quake. About 100 schools reopened for half-day sessions, radio reports said.

Events in Kobe, however, have prompted the Japanese to reconsider some of their long-cherished assumptions about the country's ability to use its technological powers as a defense against nature.

Another quake — with a magnitude of 6.2 — shook Japan's northern island Hokkaido on Saturday but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

On Saturday, Makiko Tanaka, director general of the science and technology agency, visited the Hamaoka nuclear power plant in central Japan to ensure safety of such facilities in light of events in Kobe.



A Chechen fighter runs in the streets of battle-scarred Grozny

Rage and incredulity in city of hell

Amid the chaos of a capital where Chechen leaders say 18,000 have died in a three-week Russian bombardment, rebel soldiers are threatening a guerrilla campaign from the mountains beyond. Ian MacWilliam reports from Grozny

THE HEART of the Chechen capital of Grozny, now entering its third week of brutal Russian bombardment, is a scene from hell. The Russians seem determined to turn the city into rubble, and last week, as warplanes and heavy artillery pounded away, many more bodies were lying in the bloodstained slush.

The ferocious assault brought the Russians some gains, but even as they made advances they were harried by Chechens appearing in their rear from water-main tunnels, making a nonsense of the front line.

Every building along Lenin Avenue, which leads from the square, has been damaged by shelling, the road surfaces broken and strewn with debris. Every window is shattered, every space covered with broken glass. Amid the wreckage lie the belongings of vanished civilians: a teddy bear face down in the mud; a shoe or glove; a muddy book called *Russia's Ancient Villages*.

Incredibly, people are still living here. As the whump and crack of shells a mile away repeatedly shake the city, a woman's head appears out of a window above and shouts: "Be careful, there are snipers

ahead." A bewildered old woman walks down the road with two buckets, oblivious to the firing.

Women carrying shopping bags of bread or buckets of water pick their way along the streets during quiet moments, or shelter in courtyards. They sleep in basements or in their flats, trying to ignore constant explosions nearby.

Many of those who remain are pensioners, often Russians, with no money to go elsewhere. Chechens can flee to their relatives in nearby villages, but Russians, their savings wiped out by inflation, cannot leave.

Further along the avenue, several minutes' walk from Freedom Square, stands the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Michael the Archangel, which has somehow escaped serious damage. Last week, as fighting raged in the square, Father Anatoly Chistousov was still there to look after the church. "There are Russians here in the city," says Fr. Chistousov. "How can I abandon them? We used to have services every day, but now only on feast days. People are afraid to come. They are shooting all the time."

The Russian people have always suffered so much at the hands of their governments that few of those in Grozny seem struck by the irony that their own government is wreaking such chaos, while professing to support their interests. Father Chistousov, asked what he thought of the Russian government, said simply: "I don't know. We haven't worked that out."

Outside, on a block of flats, a huge Soviet-era mural of doves and a rising sun bears the mocking slogan: "Peace to the Caucasus! Peace to all!"

At the southern end of Lenin Avenue lies the Minutka intersection, where Chechen fighters have been gathering before going into the city centre. Though their fierce defence of the city held the Russians at bay for much of last week, superior Russian firepower began to take its toll on Thursday when shelling of Minutka and other southern parts of the city began.

The fighters have lost none of their determination, but their mood has turned sombre. "Look, this is Yeltsin's democracy," said one in camouflage fatigues, as explosions thudded in the city and echoed off the hills. "I'm fighting for my freedom," said Aslambek Thutayev commanding a unit of 25 fighters. "I want to be independent from Russia, and I'll fight for my people to the end."

The Chechens fight in groups of 15 to 25 men, in what appears to be a loosely organised structure. Apart from those fighters directly under the Chechen government, many others have simply taken up arms and joined the struggle against Russia.

As fighters, they are often surprisingly effective.

Last week, I saw Chechens take control of two armoured personnel vehicles simply by driving up behind, shooting out the tyres and forcing the troops to surrender.

Though the Chechens accept that they face overwhelming odds, most will fight simply to defend their honour against Moscow, a power that has tried to suppress their free-spirited ways since the encroaching Tsarist empire reached the Caucasus mountain barrier centuries ago.

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accusing them of having assisted the German invaders. Thousands died of hunger and cold during the deportation. This remains the most powerful collective memory in the long history of Russia's suppression of the Chechens.

As Russian forces began shelling southern Grozny, civilians still trying to survive in the southern suburbs became noticeably more nervous. At a crowded market on the city's edge, frightened women keep asking when the war will stop, or why "West is doing nothing to help."

"How can they do this?" demanded Valentina Sergeyeva, a woman of Polish descent. "We can't sleep at night. I studied at the technical institute, and now I have nothing. I stand here like a beggar asking for bread. What is Yeltsin thinking? What can we do? No one wants to die."

A young woman in the crowd with tired eyes added: "How could they destroy the city? Who will rebuild it?"

Rage and incomprehension are a common response to questions about President Boris Yeltsin.

The Chechens add that one can expect little more from a drunkard.

Among the Russian forces attacking Grozny, morale has been notoriously low, and many officers are opposed to the whole Chechen operation, which has been badly organised from the start. Reinforcements have been arriving around Grozny this week as paratroopers and marines have been sent in to strengthen young, inexperienced conscripts. Rus-

sian casualties have been high, officially almost 400.

As the area of Russian shelling extends, however, the likelihood increases of a partisan war in the mountains south of Grozny. Already Russian aircraft have bombed roads there.

About 50 Russian paratroopers, who parachuted into the hills at the beginning of the assault, surrendered to local Chechen militia after a brief fight a week ago. Their supplies had been dropped elsewhere, and they were starving and demoralised.

Casualty figures are unclear, but Chechen Minister of Information Molvadi Udugov said last Tuesday that about 200 Chechen fighters had died and some 300 to 400 had been wounded.

He quoted a Chechen government report claiming that more than 18,000 civilians had been killed since the start of the fighting, more than 12,000 of them in Grozny. Some 400,000 refugees are estimated to have fled the fighting in Chechnya. The fighters will simply leave the city to establish bases in the hills.

At the town of Stari Atagi, 25-km south of Grozny, a new cemetery has been opened in a windswept field. Already it contains some 250 graves of those killed in Grozny or elsewhere since the Russian assault began in December. Last week, seven funerals were performed, with men chanting over the freshly packed mounds of earth.

"We know that Russia wants to unite itself, but this is no way to do it," said one young man. "We Chechens are only a million people," said another mourner. "First, they deported us, and now this. We want to live on our own land. That's all."

The Observer

Newspapers clipping to offset rising cost of newsprint

By Andrew Fraser

AP

NEW YORK — Just as they are recovering from a slump in advertising, U.S. newspapers are facing a new obstacle: Double-digit increases in the price of newsprint, their basic raw material.

Newspaper publishers have long known that newsprint prices inevitably would rise. Still, many have been surprised by the speed and magnitude of newsprint inflation.

Some are shrinking the size of papers and the stories printed in them. Some are raising newsstand and subscription prices. Others are cutting costs, from the mailroom to the newsroom. Layoffs are on the rise.

"Now is the time newspapers are looking at people they can live without," said Kenneth T. Berents, director of investment research at Wheat Butcher and Singer in Richmond, Virginia, and an authority on newsprint costs. "They're about \$200 more than in 1992.

are cutting back on waste." A robust economy has fuelled a growth in newspaper advertising, which had languished for many years. But the economy's vibrancy also has increased demand and prices for the supply of newsprint.

Newspaper ad revenue grew for a third straight year in 1994 by 7.5 per cent to \$34 billion, the fastest rise since 1985, and is expected to grow by 7 per cent this year, according to the Newspaper Association of America, an industry group based in Reston, Virginia.

The price of newsprint, which represents about 20 per cent of a newspaper's expenses, rose more than 33 per cent in 1994, recovering from the deep weakness of a few years earlier.

By some industry estimates the price will grow another 25 per cent to 30 per cent this year to near or above \$600 per tonne. That's about \$200 more than in 1992.

Blaming newsprint prices, the Wichita (Kansas) Eagle laid off 16 workers in November — the first in its 122-year history.

Both the Herald and Eagle are owned by Knight-Ridder Inc., one of the largest newspaper companies. Spokeswoman Lee Ann Schlatter said its papers a mandate to devise ways to offset newsprint price increases.

Knight-Ridder expects its newsprint expenses to rise by as much as \$100 million

this year. The company spent \$285 million on newsprint last year.

The newsprint increases are rooted partly in the cyclical nature of the paper business, which tracks the ups and downs of the broader economy.

Newspaper manufacturers slashed prices and closed mills during the recession in the early 1990s as demand dropped. That tightened supplies.

Aggravating the shortage were strikes last year that shut four paper mills in Canada.

But with the economy strengthening and advertising increasing, many newspaper publishers knew that it was only a matter of time before the price of newsprint began to rise. Some planned ahead to confront the problem.

Newspaper publishers are looking at aesthetic and cosmetic ways to save money, such as compressing classifieds and reconfiguring pages to reduce



Jordanian newspapers, also plucked by increased prices, are currently pondering ways to offset the price rise

The Associated Press

U. Little bangs seen for European single currency

BRUSSELS (R) — Europe's single currency should not come in one sweep, the European Commission was told Friday, but quickly in a few small "bangs."

The issue of when, with a number of politicians, many of them representing the EU's current French presidency, saying the earlier date was now possible.

French President Francois Mitterrand was among the latest urging EU nations at the European Parliament last week to strive for 1997.

"We took that it is the ECU," Cees Maas, the Dutch banker who chaired the group, said.

He said the reason for France's recent push was because EU finance ministers had come to realise that with the rebound of European economies, the economic convergence criteria for a single currency were now reachable in some countries.

"It is logical to say that it could happen in 1997," he said, noting that most EU states had committed themselves to respecting the necessary criteria by that time.

The possibility of a 'big bang,' one-off or instantaneous introduction of all the elements that will go to make up a single European currency is most unlikely," the group said in a statement.

It was immediately endorsed by Henning Christensen, the outgoing European commissioner in charge of monetary affairs attending his last news conference.

"I share that view because otherwise you will run into some practical difficulties," he said of the ideas of speed but multiple moves to a single currency.

The single currency — a cornerstone of the European Economic and Monetary Union — is now running under wider

trading bands, while Spain and Portugal are among countries struggling to make the EMU converge.

The group said it did not consider what the single currency should be called, whether it should be the Euro-mark in Germany and Euro-franc in France or simply the ECU, currently used for the basket of EU currencies known as the European Currency Unit.

"We took that it is the ECU," Cees Maas, the Dutch banker who chaired the group, said.

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Arab gas output poised for sharp rise

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab gas production is set to increase sharply in the next few years as some regional states are expanding output and others are planning to set up giant LNG export facilities, experts said Saturday.

The projects will enable Arab producers to offset a sharp decline in oil earnings and redress imbalances in their budgets after years of surpluses.

Algeria, the biggest gas producer in the region, will increase natural gas production to meet commitments for European customers while Egypt and Libya could sharply boost output if export plans materialised.

The projects are estimated to cost nearly \$15 billion and production could hit 10 million tonnes by 2000. Qatar has already secured potential buyers from Asia and Turkey

and is negotiating with others.

Oman also plans to build a liquefaction plant at a cost of around \$9 billion to produce six million tonnes per year.

The southern Gulf state has also set its sights on Asia for future sales.

"Arab gas output is likely to rise faster in the next few years," said a study by the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC).

The study obtained Saturday, said Arab states had failed to exploit their massive gas reserves as they had concentrated on the oil sector.

As a result, their commercial gas production of around 168 billion cubic metres (5.6

trillion cubic feet) per year has remained a fraction of their gas reserves of 29.8 trillion cubic metres (933.3 trillion cubic feet).

Their output also accounted for less than seven per cent of the world's total gas production of 2.95 trillion cubic metres (86.3 trillion cubic feet) even though the 22 Arab League members controlled more than 20 per cent of the world's gas reserves of 148 trillion cubic metres (4,933 trillion cubic feet).

"Arab states, mainly those in the Gulf and North Africa, are set to become key gas producers in the coming years," a Gulf-based oil executive said.

"This will help them make up for weak oil prices as demand for gas is drawing faster than oil due to environmental concerns worldwide," he added.

"Qatar's gas reserves are estimated at 7.07 trillion cubic metres (235.6 trillion cubic feet), nearly 24 per cent of the total Arab gas reserves.

Cotton devastation affects Pakistan's growth rate

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Pakistani government, facing a severe setback in its cotton crop this year, has been compelled to revise downward the country's growth rate, officials here said.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expected an acceleration in gross domestic product (GDP) to seven per cent for fiscal 1994-95, ending June 30, but the actual amount is likely to be only 6.5 per cent, officials said.

An official requesting anonymity said that the target had to be revised due to a cotton crop depleted by excessive rains, pests and curl leaf virus.

Ms. Bhutto said last week that the decline in cotton production would result in a lowering of the country's macro-economic targets.

Some analysts described the 6.5 per cent figure as an "optimistic assessment," and warned the final rate could be even lower given the dismal performance of the agriculture sector, which makes up

25 per cent of GDP.

GDP plunged to a record low of 2.3 per cent in 1992-93, but revived to four per cent in 1993-94 when the official target was 7.5 per cent, they said.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the major factor behind the low 1993-94 growth rate was also a decline in cotton and wheat production.

Pakistan had expected to grow over 9.5 million bales of cotton. But actual production was far below that target, reaching only between 6.5 and 7.5 million bales of 170 kilogrammes each.

Ms. Bhutto described the shortfall as a "serious blow" to her government's campaign for economic recovery.

Cotton remains Pakistan's major source of foreign exchange and analysts say the loss of one million bales would mean a GDP decline of 0.6 per cent.

To overcome the domestic shortage the government has directed the state-run Cotton Export Corporation (CEC),

Despite the decline, Pakistan is still the world's fourth largest producer of cotton. It is also the third largest exporter of textile goods.

Grown over 2.8 million hectares, cotton feeds more than 300 spinning mills, more than 1,000 cotton gin factories and some 5,000 cotton oil manufacturers in Pakistan. Official sources say Pakistan's earnings from the textile sector amount to more than 60 per cent of the country's total exports.

Experts said that in addition to pest attacks, the area under cotton cultivation also shrank, contributing to the fall in production. Cotton growers are increasingly turning to profitable sugarcane cultivation, they said.

A committee appointed by Ms. Bhutto to analyse the problem and suggest measures to avert the decline in cotton production, has recommended a ban on using seeds susceptible to virus. It has also suggested severe action against adulterators and penalties on companies found guilty of supplying substandard pesticides.

Russia shies away from approving 1995 budget

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament proposed changes to Russia's 1995 budget — Friday and stopped short of approving the spending plans, leaving a top-level IMF delegation waiting for news of Russia's economic future.

A total of 195 deputies voted for the second reading of the budget, compared to 142 against it. But the "yes" vote fell short of the overall majority of 226 needed to approve the plan. Parliament postponed further debate for five days.

The IMF sent a delegation to Moscow to discuss the possibility of granting Russia a \$6.2 billion stand-by loan.

But the loan, already budgeted by Russia as a way to close the gap between income and spending, depends on appropriate policies — a tough budget and clear moves to rein in inflation.

Parliament, packed with opponents of government re-

form policies, had voted to change the spending plans earlier Friday.

Amendments initially widened the planned deficit to almost 76 trillion roubles (\$19 billion at current exchange rates), but the final figure under discussion at the parliamentary vote was for a deficit of 73.2 trillion roubles (\$18.5 billion).

Deputies fixed 1995 spending at 240.5 trillion roubles (\$61 billion), with income of 167.4 trillion.

The government had proposed a budget deficit amounting to 71.7 trillion roubles (\$18.1 billion) or 7.7 per cent of gross domestic product.

There was no immediate government reaction to parliament's final plan, but Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov indicated earlier he would support changes proposed in the morning.

"I am ready to agree to these amendments because it is more important to me that

the budget is adopted," he told reporters.

Some economists had said the government figure was never particularly realistic, and the deficit would probably end up around 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

"The IMF has supported policies in the past with a deficit as wide as 10 per cent (of GDP) but obviously they are very interested in finding out what Russia plans before deciding whether to approve more money," said one Western economist. "They were pretty close to an agreement late last year, but that was before the Chechen crisis."

The Chechen crisis, which began last month when Russia sent tanks and troops into the breakaway region to crush its independence bid, has been one of a series of events casting doubts on the government's ability to meet 1995 spending plans.

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China seizes smuggled goods worth \$439m

BEIJING (Agencies) — Chinese customs thwarted 886 major smuggling attempts and seized 3.73 billion yuan (\$439 million) worth of contraband in 1994, the overseas edition of People's Daily said Saturday.

Fines slapped on smugglers increased national coffers by 2.2 billion yuan (\$259 million), up 29 per cent from 1993, the newspaper said.

According to incomplete statistics, customs officials seized 36,749 tonnes of smuggled steel products, 6,000 cubic metres (212,000 cubic feet) of plywood and 68,885 tonnes of finished oil products, it said.

Customs authorities also seized 289,000 smuggled pornographic publications and video tapes.

In three months alone, customs officials seized 138 smuggled cars, 5,260

motorcycles and 34,860 compressors of air conditioners, the newspaper said. It did not give comparative figures.

Smuggling, virtually eliminated in the years after the communists came to power in 1949, has staged a comeback since Beijing introduced economic reforms in the 1980s.

Meanwhile many Shanghai enterprises are coming consumers, flooding the market with counterfeit imported products and making false advertising claims, the city's industry and commerce administration bureau says.

The Liberation Daily quoted bureau statistics which show 50 cases of unfair competition were reported last year, with imitations of imported products accounting for half the cases and false advertising accounting for 37 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Some obligations could give you trouble if not attended to now. Use today's good aspects to extend your present interests on the home front where you will experience fewer drawbacks than heretofore.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact modern thinking friends and find out how you can become more affluent. Avoid one who limits you towards what you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A touch of class put into whatever you are doing can make life more interesting for you now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get fine new ideas today and should concentrate on the best way to utilize them. Get away from dull duties.

MONS CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make a fine impression via your talents, so stop being so conservative and self-effacing for you to be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is an ideal day to get out in the world of entertainment and relieve tensions you have been under for some time. Be active and happy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If kin have ideas which are different from the norm, go along with them since they can be of assistance to you and your progress.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are charming today and can please others very much. It is possible to take a chance and win now what ordinarily you could not do.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use that campaign quality you have to please those who are near and dear to you. Forget your personal desires for a while.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some special activity can impress your partner, though they are started at first. Enjoy home and family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study more modern ways of adding to your property and possessions. Plan how to add to a bank account. Cut down on expenses you incur.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have rather unusual ideas which could prove successful if you put them in motion. Amend a meeting of higher-ups.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into the privacy of your study and tap your subconscious for fine ideas. Do something which will impress your mate and close associates.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1 Old refrain 10 Kitchen gadget 11 Kitchen utensil in Indonesia

14 Oh, woe! 15 Solo 16 Grouse

17 Olive family trees

18 Roman poet 20 Experienced 21 Acrobatic

22 Local master 24 Edible mushroom

25 Young member 26 Uses deceptive strategy

27 Signs 28 Handicapped for a handicap

29 Italian monk 30 — Scandal

33 British peers 37 Divergent

38 Acrobatic 39 Wheel holders

40 Bulwark, e.g. 41 Softened

42 Agreement 43 Nautical hook

44 Spoken 45 Japanese money

46 Selected 47 Cruel treatment

48 — 49 Severe 50 Malnutrition

51 Native of Copenhagen 52 Metaphor

53 Get around by 54 Sleep plant

55 — 56 — 57 — 58 —

59 — 60 — 61 — 62 —

63 — 64 — 65 — 66 —

67 — 68 — 69 — 70 —

71 — 72 — 73 — 74 —

75 — 76 — 77 — 78 —

79 — 80 — 81 — 82 —

83 — 84 — 85 — 86 —

87 — 88 — 89

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Thousands of farmers benefit from ACC

** The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) extended a total of JD14.3 million in loans to 5,687 farmers last year. The 4,986 projects entailed setting up new farms or reclaiming land. According to the ACC chief, 80 per cent of the loans benefited small farmers. He said that 70 per cent of the borrowers were obtaining credits for the first time. Repayments of loans totalled JD12.3 million, compared to JD10.5 million in 1993. The ACC had written off JD11 million of interest on loans extended between Jan. 1, 1981, and Sept. 30, 1994, based on Royal directives to ease farmers' financial burden and support the agricultural sector. The cancellation of interest covered more than 50,000 small debtors, or about 88 per cent of all who benefited from the Royal directive (Al Dustour).

** Small and low-income farmers will be able to benefit from a large-scale project to be implemented next month by the Ministry of Agriculture with the financing coming from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (JD 10 million) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (JD 9 million). The project, to be implemented over seven years, will benefit nearly 8,000 rural families who will be helped by the ministry to raise pure Shami goats and improved sheep, process dairy products and grow fruit trees (Al Ra'i).

** Farmer social affairs minister Mohammad Sqour is the most likely candidate to fill the post of director-general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO). The JCO's situation is going to be studied in order to find the most suitable solutions to its financial difficulties (Al Dustour).

** Some sources at the central bank suspect that the forged JD20 bill was printed in an Arab Country (Al Dustour).

** The Natural Resources Authority will next week start drilling two new wells for gas production in the Rishieh area. The two wells will increase the production volume from 30 million cubic metres a day to 40 million. Gas production from the Rishieh area has reached 39 trillion cubic metres since the field was discovered in 1989. Oil production from Hamzah field has reached 710,000 barrels since the field was discovered in 1985 (Al Ra'i).

** The Association of Pharmacists intends to increase membership fees to JD20 from JD10 for each pharmacist working as an employee. Owners of pharmacies will pay JD20 each while owners of drug warehouses will pay JD60. The association, whose membership exceeds 3,500, also intends to impose fees on some pharmaceutical institutions which have not been subjected to such payments in accordance with the internal regulations of the association (Al Ra'i).

** Real Estate Investment Co. (Akarco) is accepting subscription for new shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 2.500 (JD 1 per value plus JD 1.5 premium), reflect the increase of the company's capital by JD 3.75 million. The last day for this private subscription is Feb. 16, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

** It has been officially confirmed that the government will present to the Lower House of Parliament next month the draft law for encouraging investment which would guarantee the department of encouraging investment an administrative and financial independence (Al Aswag).

Levine and Zogby discuss Builders of Peace programme

By Rick Marshall
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The first project developed under the Builders of Peace programme, a cement plant owned by Buchtel International of Youngstown, Ohio, opened its doors this week. As such, it marks the first of what is hoped will be many projects in Gaza and the West Bank this special public-private programme will sponsor.

Builders of Peace was established at the behest of President Clinton and Vice President Gore after the Declaration of Principles (DOP) was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in September 1993.

The idea was to bring the American Jewish and American Arab communities together, along with U.S. government agencies and Palestinian and Israeli businessmen, in support of the economic development of Gaza and the occupied territories.

As part of this effort, Builders has developed an extensive database to facilitate match-ups between prospective business partners.

The programme has proved a unique opportunity for Jewish and Arab-American businessmen in the United States to work together on a subject of deep interest to them both: The economic development of Gaza and the occupied territories.

"I think there's a real change in the relationship in the two communities," Jim Zogby, a co-president of the Builders programme and the

"We always anticipated

that our success would be dependent on the success of the peace process," Mr. Levine said, explaining how incidents such as the massacre at Hebron shortly after the signature of DOP slowed the process."

Both Mr. Zogby and Mr. Mel Levine, the former California congressman who serves as the Builders' other president and the link to the Jewish community, stress the commitment of business leaders — both in the United States and in the Middle East — who have dedicated themselves to making the programme work.

"A very solid group of leaders from each community came together," Mr. Levine said in a separate interview. "There is a constant thread of engagement and activity." This effort has created "substantial interest" in the United States, the West Bank and Israel to work together on building a solid economic base for Gaza and the occupied territories.

"We have clearly sunk a foundation," he said. "You have talent on all sides... It's in its infancy, but the opportunity is potentially boundless." Yet both men agree that the pace of investment in the Gaza and the occupied territories has been frustratingly slow. The problem, in Mr. Levine's opinion, lies not with the Palestinians or the Israelis, both of whom "responded promptly and very effectively" when impediments were identified, but with the difficulties inherent in the peace process itself.

"We always anticipated

Privatise MEA, minister says

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Middle East Airlines (MEA) reported a \$15 million loss in 1994 Saturday and Transport Minister Omar Miskawi was quoted as saying the troubled national carrier should be privatised.

MEA Chairman Abdul Hamid Fakhouri told Reuters the airline lost about \$15 million in 1994 after breaking even in 1993 for the first time in 10 years.

Mr. Fakhouri gave no further details. MEA has not yet published its official results for 1994.

For Mr. Zogby, the problems began with the great expectations created by the DOP itself. The premise was that peace would bring prosperity, he said.

"The private sector should

be allowed to take over totally and have the treasury carry no loan burden in this field," Mr. Miskawi told the Beirut daily al Nahar.

"I favour proposing new company shares, a new subscription, and that the company should be run by those with the most interest in protecting their investment," he said.

"World developments have begun to reject the principle of the national (airline) company as that policy puts a heavy burden on any government," Mr. Miskawi added.

MEA has since 1993 asked its shareholders, who include the Bank of Lebanon, the Lebanese government, the French and Kuwaiti governments and Lebanese and Kuwaiti investors, for \$150 million capital to finance a

development plan to make it competitive.

It has so far received only a \$15 million loan and Mr. Miskawi said last November the airline was in a critical condition and its future as the national carrier was threatened.

In the An Nahar interview he said there was no programme for spending or repaying the proposed government loan.

"I fear that if we give the company one year to repay the loan and it does not, this would then be extended to

another year, then a third, and so on. And thus the loan would be lost," he said.

An MEA official said last month the government had agreed to lend the airline \$100 million. The proposal has not yet received cabinet approval.

Newspaper reports say there is a dispute between Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, who wants MEA to repay the cash-strapped government in a year, and parliament speaker Nabil Bettar, who wants a three-year repayment period.

Israeli software industry impresses Jordanian delegation

AMMAN — A delegation of businessmen representing 10 different Jordanian information system companies returned home after participating in the 19th convention of the Information Processing Association of Israel (IPA) upon the invitation of Amiram Shore, chairman of the convention.

The 15-man delegation attended the "borderless world" convention which was opened Sunday at Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv and proceeded at the Jerusalem Convention Centre in the following days, and which was organised by the Israeli Ministry of Trade & Industry, the centre of Jewish-Arab Economic Development and the Israeli Management Centre.

Jordan and Egypt were the only Middle Eastern countries which took part in the event along with the USA, Korea, Israel, India, England and France.

"They are far ahead of us in that field, and we have a lot to do if we want to catch up with them. Although this is very difficult, it is not impossible" he said.

According to the Israeli Association of Software Houses (LASH), the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI), and Israel Export Institute (IEI) bulletin, Israel's software industry sales in 1994 reached an estimate of \$800 million, with \$220 million of which was in software export sales.

According to the bulletin, Israeli software exports have spiraled more than thirty-six fold between 1984 and 1993, from \$5 million to \$180 million. The estimates for 1994 show a 20% increase of exports. The world software market in 1994 exceeded \$140 billion representing an average annual growth rate of over 15 per cent. (J.T.)

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SWEIFIYEH TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 21/01/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	600	109930	181.250	183.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	3100	13485	4.290	4.350
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	6224	26183	4.150	4.230
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	560	2044	3.700	3.650
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	500	774	1.800	1.850
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1612	93100	2.820	3.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	92553	2865146	3.010	3.050
JORDAN GULF BANK	2700	4179	1.490	1.560
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	23805	89420	3.720	3.760
BUSINESS BANK	10000	15500	3.530	3.570
ARMED BANK FOR INVESTMENT	88495	125025	2.500	2.570
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4112	6706	1.560	1.600
BANKS SECTOR				
	245851	795276	INDEX NUMBER: 158.63	CHANGE: +0.51+
INSURANCE SECTOR				
ARMAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	100	200	2.000	2.000
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	1000	3700	3.700	3.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2000	5200	2.600	2.600
INSURANCE SECTOR				
	3100	9100	INDEX NUMBER: 136.10	CHANGE: +0.00+
SERVICES SECTOR				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	2634	4054	1.550	1.540
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	6670	9928	1.480	1.490
JORDAN MINES & METALLURGY	300	825	2.700	2.750
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1790	8817	4.750	4.880
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY LINES	1500	6470	2.000	2.050
NATIONAL PETROLEUM SECURITIES	1565	3439	2.160	2.200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5350	6591	1.300	1.230
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	3575	4421	1.220	1.230
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	2143	26252	12.250	12.250
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	7211	17306	2.100	2.100
ARMAN INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	54550	150525	3.500	3.500
SERVICES SECTOR				
	105488	337340	INDEX NUMBER: 131.74	CHANGE: +1.06+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100	2374	22.610	23.740
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1320	4080	2.000	2.000
THE JORDAN POTASH / NEW	300	1575	5.300	5.250
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	384	3626	9.450	9.510
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	4078	16883	4.100	4.200
JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	3450	27224	7.750	7.940
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3635	19444	5.340	5.320
JORDAN DAIRY	100	20	2.000	2.000
ARAB COOPERS MANUFACTURING	24	661	2.760	2.760
SPINNING & WEAVING	2500	6443	2.590	2.650
RATFA INDUSTRIES	1100	3051	2.730	2.770
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	14850	15298	1.010	1.030
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	550	3881	7.020	7.050
ARAB PACKING & POULTRY	11600	9547	1.000	1.050
ARAB PETROLEUM HOLDING & TRADING	1000	1410	1.390	1.410
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	650	2.620	2.600
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	7550	11016	1.660	1.480
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/TIMCO	6250	5035	.800	.810
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR. & CHEMICALS	300	803	2.590	2.670
KANTHAR INVESTMENT	700	1252	1.100	1.170
UNIVERSAL MOBILE INDUSTRIES	28000	15259	1.120	1.120
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6950	19622	2.070	2.150
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				
	85280	205628	INDEX NUMBER: 127.21	CHANGE: +0.23+
GRAND TOTAL				

Lakers' buzzer beater downs Celtics 120-118

BOSTON (R) — It wasn't Magic and Bird, but Nick Van Exel made the Los Angeles Lakers' final visit to the Celtics' Boston Garden a night to remember on Friday.

Van Exel took an inbounds pass with his back to the basket, turned and hit a 28-foot desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Lakers a 120-118 victory.

Asked what kind of look he got at the basket, Van Exel said: "It was a horrible one. I wanted to get it up. I thought I travelled and then I thought I was out of bounds. And after I didn't hear a whistle blow, I just shot it up and it went in."

Lakers coach Del Harris said: "He caught the ball, he made an incredible, impossible shot. For the rest of our lives, we'll be able to say the last time we played in Boston Garden, we won the game."

The Celtics will move into the Shawmut Centre next season, leaving the Boston Garden in which they fought so many epic battles with the Lakers. From 1980-89, Magic Johnson's Lakers and Larry Bird's Celtics won a combined eight NBA titles and at least one of the teams was in every final.

The Lakers (23-12) could not return to the Garden unless both they and the Celtics (15-23) reach the finals.

"It's right up there with Magic's hook shot across the key in 1985," Lakers assistant coach Michael Cooper said of Van Exel's shot. "If it fits there with Gerald Henderson's steal in '84, when they beat us that year."

Cooper added: "It put the whole series in perspective for me. Every time we play these guys, it had to be something difficult to win the game."

The game-winning hoop came after Dino Radja put back his own miss with 2.4 seconds left to give Boston a 118-117 lead. Radja led the Celtics with 21 points and 12 rebounds.

RESULTS

LA Lakers	120	Boston	118
Charlotte	99	New Jersey	97
Indiana	99	Atlanta	89
San Antonio	115	Miami	114 (OT)
Washington	102	Philadelphia	98
Orlando	112	Denver	108 (OT)
Houston	106	Detroit	96
Chicago	93	Minnesota	86
New York	106	Dallas	93
Utah	94	Cleveland	84
Portland	108	LA Clippers	97

Tunisian Al-Taraggi win Super Cup

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Kenneth Malifoly and Abdel-Qader El-Hassan scored six minutes apart in the first half to pace Al Taraggi of Tunisia to a 3-0 victory over Zaire's Motema Pemba and the African Super Cup champions.

Malifoly opened the scoring in the 26th minute and El-Hassan added the insurance in the 32nd minute.

Al-Taraggi, the reigning African Cup champions, dominated Motema Pemba, the Cup Winners Cup holder, throughout and added an own goal in the 68th minute.

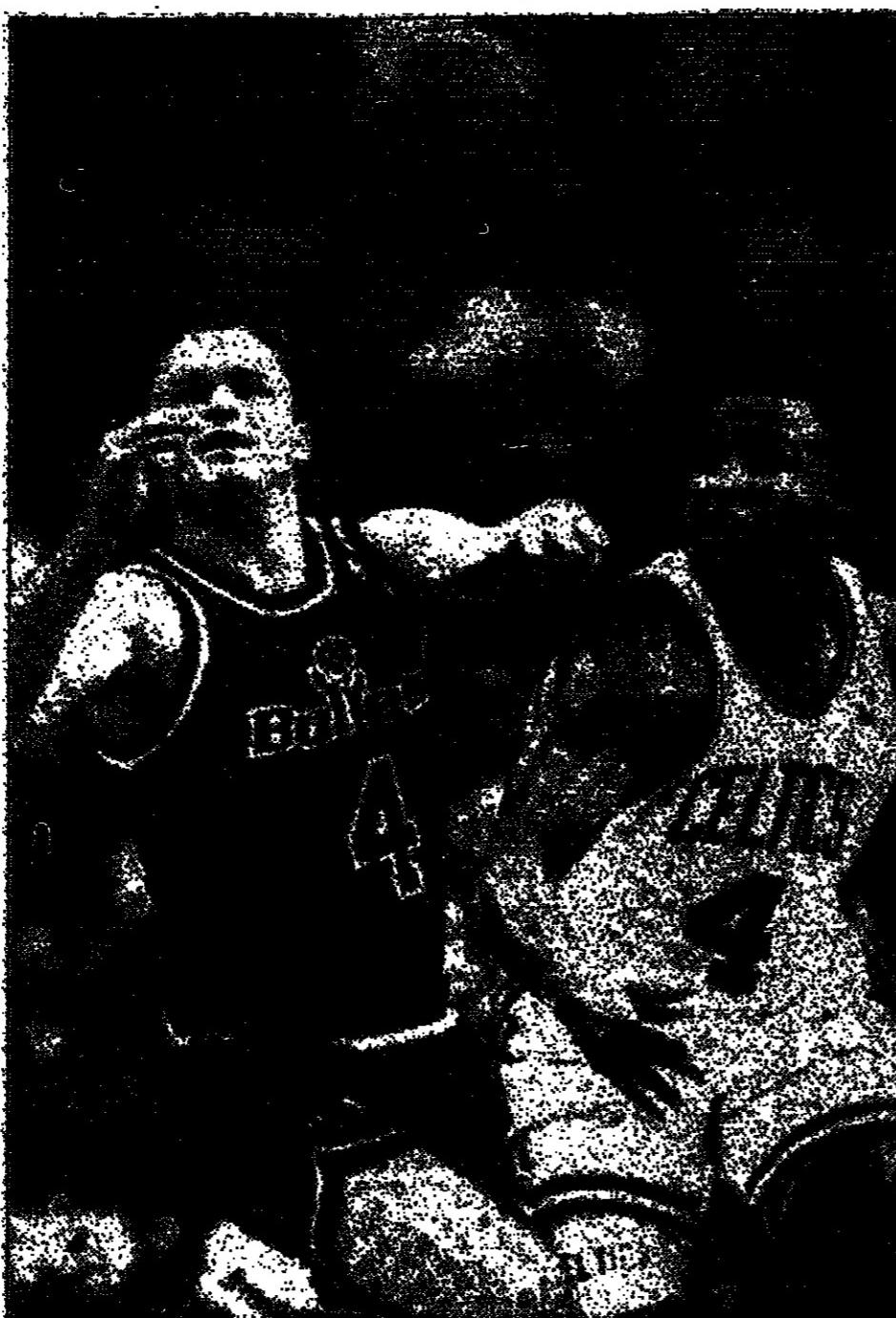
Japan, UAE in Asian Cup Winners' final

SHARJAH (R) — Japan's Yokohama Flugels will play for soccer glory Sunday against United Arab Emirates' Al-Shaab in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup.

Flugels made it to the final after a thrilling 4-2 win (halftime 0-1) over telephone organisation of Thailand Friday night.

Al-Shaab's bad-tempered match against Al-Itrihad of neighbouring Saudi Arabia ended 1-1 after extra time (fulltime 1-1 halftime 0-1) but finally the home side won a penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Jasim Mohammad Al-Doukhi's equaliser for Al-Shaab late in injury time equalised Abdullah Fawal's 27th minute strike for the Saudi Arabian side, triggering extra time in a match played in the UAE state of Sharjah and attended by 8,500 people.



David Wesley (right) of the Boston Celtics against Scott Skiles of the Washington Bullets knocks the ball loose in a defensive play in their NBA game.

the fourth quarter to lift the Pacers to a 99-89 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

In Chicago, B.J. Armstrong had 22 points and Scottie Pippen 16 as the Bulls beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 93-86.

The Bulls improved to 12-0 lifetime against the Wolves while snapping a season-high four-game losing streak.

The Timberwolves have dropped 10 of their last 12 games.

In Miami, David Robinson scored 26 points, including a

pair of free throws with 5.5 seconds left in overtime, giving the San Antonio Spurs a 115-114 triumph over the Heat.

San Antonio played without temperamental forward Dennis Rodman, who was benched for one game after he failed to attend the morning shootaround.

In Los Angeles, Clyde Drexler scored 28 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to an easy 108-97 victory over the Clippers, snapping a three-game losing streak.

Washington won for only the second time in 13 games.

The Sixers have dropped 10 of their last 11.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Norwegian fans win sportsmanship award

PARIS (AP) — The Norwegian fans of the Winter Olympics, an Australian bobsledder and FIFA world soccer's governing body, were selected winners of UNESCO's annual sportsmanship award Friday. The international fair play committee, in association with UNESCO, said the Pierre de Coubertin trophies will present the awards at a ceremony in Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 29. Norway's King Harald V will receive the award on behalf of his people, who cheered not only for their own athletes but also nearly every competitor during the Olympics last February in Lillehammer Games.

Senna's death forces Imola changes

IMOLA (R) — Organisers of the San Marino Grand Prix presented a \$6.1 million plan on Friday to improve safety at the Formula One track where Ayrton Senna crashed to his death last year. The plan to modify the Tamburello, Villeneuve and Lower Variante curves could begin within 10 days pending approval by Italy's environment minister, race organisers said. But they added the changes, estimated to cost 9.8 billion lire (\$6.1 million), might not be finished before the scheduled race date of April 30 and suggested the Grand Prix could be postponed until May 14. Brazilian Senna, a triple world champion, died last May after crashing into the wall at Imola's Tamburello curve, just 24 hours after Austrian Roland Ratzenberger died following his crash in final qualifying.

Baggio, Romario, Stoichkov award finalists

LISBON (R) — Strikers Roberto Baggio of Italy, Brazilian Romario and Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov are the finalists for the 1994 FIFA world player of the year award, a FIFA spokeswoman announced. The trio lead a list of players proposed in a vote by more than 100 national coaches from all over the world. The name of the winner will be disclosed at a gala in Lisbon on January 30. Previous winners were German Lothar Matthaus (1991), Dutchman Marco Van Basten (1992), and Baggio (1993).

Osaka women's marathon to be cancelled

TOKYO (AP) — The Osaka Women's Marathon scheduled for Jan. 29 will be called off because of Tuesday's devastating earthquake in the Kobe-Osaka area, news reports said Friday. Kyodo news service, quoting unnamed officials of the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation, said a formal announcement to cancel the race will be made by Sunday. Sports officials were not immediately available for comment Friday night. The Osaka race is an annual event which began in 1982. About a dozen top foreign runners have been invited each year.

Taiwan to lobby support for Asian Games bid

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan is planning to send a mission to Kuwait early next month to lobby support for the island's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, state television said on Friday. It will be the first lobbying trip since the cabinet officially named the southern port city of Kaohsiung for the island's bid to stage the games. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949 and opposes Taipei's use of sport to battle diplomatic isolation. Taiwan was forced to send its deputy premier Hsu Li-Teh to the Asian Games in Japan's Hiroshima in October last year after China blocked president Lee Teng-Hui's attendance.

Bubka to make rare appearance

NEW YORK (R) — The Millrose Games athletics meeting gained some added luster when organisers announced that pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka would be making a rare New York appearance. If the Ukrainian who has dominated his event like none other is going to bother to make the trip from his base in Berlin, only one result is acceptable. "Of course the first thing for me that's important is to be a winner, the second thing in my tradition is to do a good result," said Bubka in a teleconference to announce his participation in the Feb. 3 meeting. Bubka will appear at Madison Square Garden for the first time in seven years and fifth time in his illustrious career. He won the event at the U.S. indoor championships, in New York in 1984 and 1996.

Damon Hill faces speeding charge

LONDON (R) — British Grand Prix racing driver Damon Hill faces a speeding charge after police alleged he clocked more than 100 mph (160 kph) on a motorway last month, court officials said. Hill, 34, was stopped by a police patrol on the M40 motorway in Oxfordshire, north of London, on December 5. The Williams Renault driver is due to appear before magistrates on March 1 charged with driving at 102.7 mph. The speed limit on British motorways is 70 mph (112 kph). Hill was narrowly pipped to the 1994 Formula One world title by German Michael Schumacher.

Stoichkov loses appeal

MADRID (AFP) — Barcelona's Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov lost his appeal against a two-match suspension after he was sent off during a league match earlier this month. The Spanish Football Federation rejected a plea that the ban should be reduced to only one game. Stoichkov was given his marching orders shortly before half-time after hacking down Real Madrid's Sanchez Flores. Ten-man Barcelona went on to lose the match 5-0.

Yeboah finally gets work permit

LONDON (AP) — Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah's transfer to Leeds was formally completed when he was granted a work permit by the department of employment. The Premier League club had been trying for two weeks to obtain a permit for Yeboah, who joins Leeds from Eintracht Frankfurt in a 3.4-million-pound (\$5.1 million) transfer deal. It was not immediately known whether Yeboah will make his Leeds debut at Leicester.

Super Bowl tickets swiped

MIAMI (AFP) — Thieves who stole 262 Super Bowl tickets from a package delivery service might make a bundle re-selling the seats, but buyers will be unable to use them to watch the game in person. The tickets, each valued at \$200, were sent to a delivery service last week by the Miami Dolphins, the host team for the January 29 American Football Championship game. But a caller identifying himself as Dolphins' general manager Eddie Jones telephoned the FedEx office to tell officials not to send out the tickets. He said two men would be sent to retrieve the seats. When two men arrived for them, a clerk handed them over. Only later was it determined the call and the pickup men were fakes. With a brisk market for reselling tickets, the thieves could expect to make \$250,000 dollar on their purloined prizes. But anyone paying for them will be out of luck.

Jordan Soccer League

Al Wihsat eye title: relegation battle rages Ramtha lodge complaint with JSF

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Al Wihsat stayed atop the 12-team first division soccer standings after their 1-1 with Al Ramtha Friday awaiting their upcoming match to decide if they win the prestigious crown, Al Ramtha were not content with the result and proceedings of the match and have already lodged an official complaint with the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) citing that the referee had cancelled a clear goal minutes before they scored their equalizer by a penalty kick.

Jirys Tadros is now the league's top scorer after netting two goals from penalty kicks for Al Faisali in the 86th and 92nd minutes. Teammate Jamal Abu Abed had opened scoring in the 33rd minutes. Tadros now leads the top scorers with 16 goals, while Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib dropped to second with 14 goals.

At Amman's Al Petra Stadium, Al Karmel's Nizar Shamkeh gave his team a face-saving second win of the competition after a 1-0 victory over last-placed Al Jeel.

Both teams, together with Shabab Al Hussein and a fourth team will drop to the second division.

In another of the week's matches Al Qaddieh improved their record trying to move away from the last four after a 3-1 win over Al Wihsat.

Al Qaddieh moved up an important step from 9th

to 7th after Kufraoum and Arabi lost their final match.

Meanwhile, Al Ahli pushed Al Arabi toward relegation with a 3-0 win.

Maher Hantash opened scoring and striker Nart Yadaj added the other two in the 61st and 87th minutes.

Al Arabi will next have to beat Al Wihsat to avoid relegation.

On the other hand, Al Ahli have secured their place in the division despite earlier inconsistent results which led many to believe they would surely drop.

Al Ahli are a step away from the second division as they are now 9th and have a difficult match against leaders Al Wihsat.

Kufraoum, the only newcomer to have maintained a halfway standing throughout most of the competition, are now eighth after two consecutive defeats. They will next play Al Kar-

Standings after 20th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihsat	21	13	8	—	27	5	34
Ramtha	21	13	6	2	42	13	32
Faisali	21	12	7	2	41	9	31
Hussein	21	14	2	5	52	24	30
Jazireh	21	10	5	6	30	22	25
Ahli	21	8	6	7	29	28	22
Qaddieh	21	7	6	8	26	25	20
Kufraoum	21	9	2	10	28	34	20
Arabi	21	7	5	9	26	33	19
Shabab Al Hussein	21	2	4	15	20	45	8
Karmel	21	2	4	15	14	50	8
Jeel	21	1	1	19	11	58	3

Flammengo sign Branco

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian international defender Branco has joined Flammengo less than a week after the club recruited its World Cup winning teammate Romario.

"He's signed for us and he's wearing the club jersey right now," said Marcos Felipe Magalhaes, Flammengo's marketing head.

Branco signed a six-month contract with the Rio club worth \$200,000 to the player who last season won a Brazilian championship runners-up medal with Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

The left-back, whose form in the Brazilian domestic game has been erratic, became a national hero when he rifled in a 30-metre free kick to earn his side a World Cup semifinal win over the Netherlands.

Romario, whose transfer from Barcelona cost Flammengo \$4.5 million, is likely to wear the number one shirt, Magalhaes said.



Brazil's Branco (left) hugs teammate Romario after they won the 1994 World Cup final (AP photo)

Foreman to defend title against Schulz

LAS VEGAS (AP) — George Foreman, bidding his time waiting for Mike Tyson, will be guaranteed a \$10 million payday to fight unranked and little-known Axel Schulz of Germany.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995 11

Put some money on me, says confident Agassi

MELBOURNE (R) — Andre Agassi advised would-be punters Saturday to bet on him for the Australian Open title after another outstanding centre court display guaranteed his presence in the last 16.

The world number two from Las Vegas, a self-confessed gambling man, suggested he would be "worth a few bucks" after overwhelming Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in a mere 82 minutes on centre court.

Agassi, like defending champion Pete Sampras, has yet to drop a set at the year's first Grand Slam tournament and sees no reason why he cannot repeat his triumph at the U.S. Open last September.

"I'm hitting the ball well, serving well and I'm quite comfortable against anyone," he said. "It's worth a few bucks I think."

"It's nice to get that first week out of the way and to feel as though the tournament has just started. I think that's most important," Agassi added. "Once you can work your way into the second week, things start kicking in and you really have a shot at winning it."

Agassi also made a supportive gesture towards Sampras's coach Tim Gullikson, still in hospital after falling ill at Flinders Park Friday, leaving a handwritten sign with the words "Guly, get well soon" on court beside his chair.

The cold, blustery day saw the fall of the three seeds — Austria's Thomas Muster in the men's tournament and

Japan's Kimiko Date and American Lori McNeil in the women's.

But Agassi's form sent a shiver through the increasingly depleted bottom half of the men's draw.

The early defeats of seeds Boris Becker, Wayne Fer-

had been spared a fourth round clash with the 19th-ranked Petr Korda.

The Czech lefthander, forced to endure a punishing five-setter in roasting temperatures in his previous match, made a lacklustre start against American Krickstein

14th seed muster in an acrimonious contest.

The day's outstanding performance in the women's singles came from Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu, whose family home was destroyed in Tuesday's earthquake.

The 21-year-old gave her parents some slight consolation by knocking out seventh-seeded compatriot Kimiko Date 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the last 16 at Flinders Park for the first time.

The battling Sawamatsu sought advice on whether to pull out of the tournament after hearing the news about her home in Nishinomiya, a suburb of Kobe, but hung in to claim her first win over Date since 1990.

The unpredictable wind also claimed 15th seed McNeil, who went down 8-6 in a third set to 21-year-old Mexican Angelica Gavaldon.

McNeil, who toppled Steffi Graf in the first round of Wimbledon last June, served 12 double faults as Gavaldon, a quarter-finalist five years ago at the age of 16, fought back from a set down.

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, playing on the more enclosed centre court, breezed through 6-1, 6-3 against American Zina Garrison Jackson, but Jana Novotna claimed conditions on the outside courts were some of the worst she had experienced.

"I don't remember when I

played in such weather. Everyone plays ugly tennis in this kind of weather but as long as I win that's all that matters," said the Czech third seed after edging past American Lisa Raymond 9-7 in the final set.

Australian Open notebook

* American Vince Spadea's start to the 1995 tennis circuit has been a big success, with the 20-year-old Chicago-born player reaching the third round of the Australian Open.

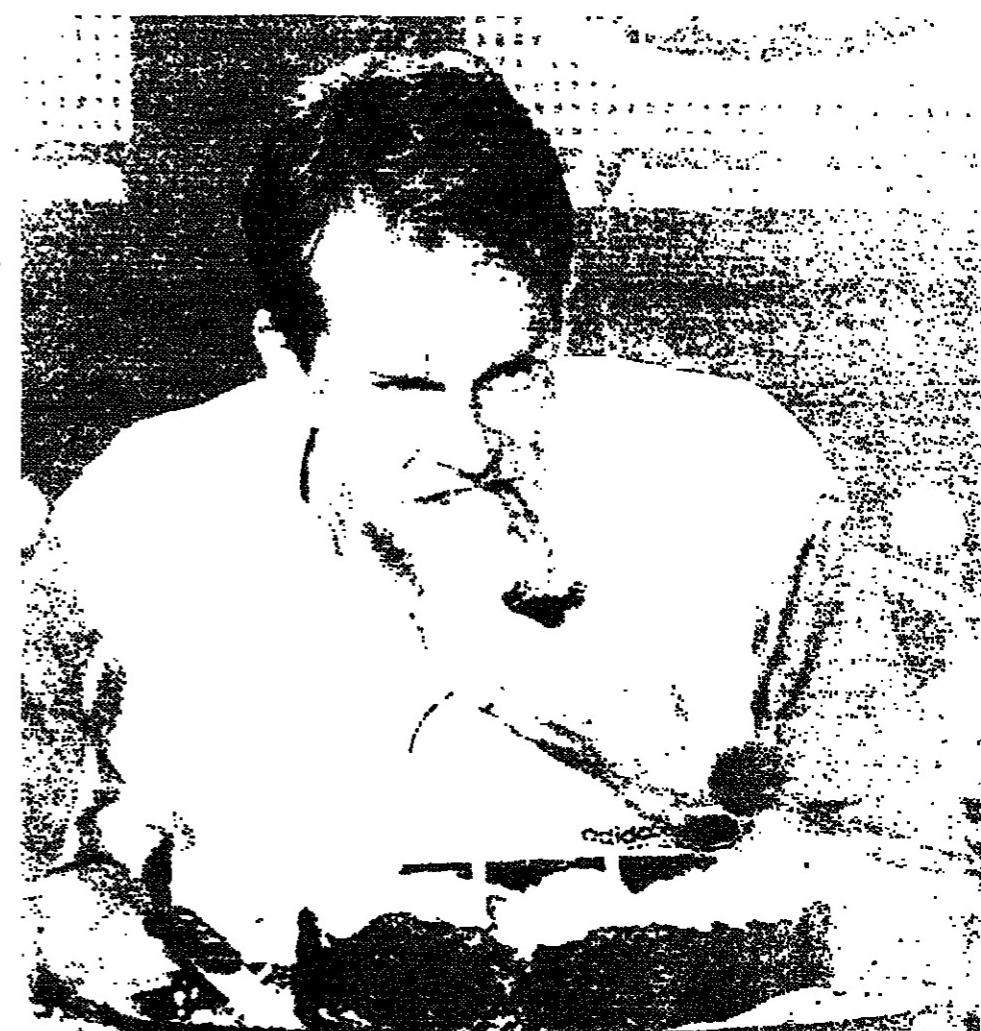
Spadea, who played a number of challenger series events last year but will play the main circuit fulltime this year, also advanced to the semifinals of last week's tour event in Auckland before losing to countryman Chuck Adams. He has a 5-1 record and is ranked 68th after starting the year 80th.

He is a product of the United States Tennis Association's Touring Pro Program that also has among its alumni his next opponent, Todd Martin, and Lindsay Davenport.

* Happily Anonymous: Todd Martin is happily working his way through the opening rounds of the Australian Open without any fuss.

Martin was beaten by Pete Sampras in last year's final and is the no. 8 seed this time around, but most of the attention has been centred on his fellow Americans Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Andre Agassi. That suits Martin just fine.

"All those guys have won some pretty big matches and



Stefan Edberg bites into his birthday cake presented to him by the Australian Open organising committee following his match (AFP photo)

triumphing at Wimbledon.

But Kristin Godridge, who

was the last Australian woman survivor in the Open,

says growing criticism of the local players is unfair.

"Women's tennis (in Australia) is not as hopeless as

everyone makes it out to be,"

said Godridge. "We are all heading in the right direction."

reira, Richard Krajicek and Muster has left a considerable hole and only the ever-reliable Stefan Edberg has a better path to the semifinals than the flamboyant American.

Edberg survived an awkward first-set tiebreak, interrupted by rain when he trailed 4-3, to beat German Hendrik Dreeckmann 7-6, 6-2, 6-3. He then discovered he

and lost 6-1, 6-4, 7-6.

Krickstein's success ensured eight American representatives in the last 16 after Patrick McEnroe, the first round conqueror of Becker, ended German interest in the men's singles with a straight sets victory over David Primrose.

McEnroe will now meet Dutchman Jacco Eltingh, a

6-3, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 winner over

"I don't remember when I

Rangers lose in NHL season opener

NEW YORK (R) — After a 103-day lockout, the National Hockey League season finally began on Friday and the New York Rangers got to raise their first Stanley Cup Championship banner in 54 years.

Unfortunately, after a 45-minute celebration, they had to play a game, and the Buffalo Sabres dampened the spirits of the Madison Square Garden crowd with a 2-1 victory.

Donald Andretti's slap shot through the legs of goalie Mike Richter goal with 14:35 left in the third period gave Buffalo the win and goalie Grant Fuhr made it stand up.

"I picked up my speed and stayed wide and fired the puck, another lucky goal," said Andretti.

Fuhr, starting ahead of Vezina Trophy winner Dominik Hasek, made 29 saves for Buffalo, which posted its first win at Madison Square Garden since March 8, 1989.

"We tried to keep it close and tight," Fuhr said. "Games like these are fun to play. We hope we get off to a quick start because now every game's important."

The season was shortened from 84 games to 48 because of the lockout.

Steve Larmer made it 1-0 for New York at 3:35 of the first period but Dale Hawerchuk scored just 62 seconds later after Yuri Khmylev broke down the middle ahead of the Rangers' sleeping defense.

"Perhaps we were looking forward to the ceremony more than the game," said Rangers defenceman Kevin Lowe.

New York captain Mark Messier took the opening faceoff for the Rangers, although he and team officials still have not resolved his contract. Negotiations are continuing.

The Sabres played without superstar centre Pat Lafontaine, whose status remains day-to-day due to problems

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ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL U.S. DIVERSITY IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

The American Embassy in Jordan announces the start of the Annual Diversity Immigration Program for 1996. The U.S. Immigration Act of 1990 makes available worldwide each year, by random selection, 55,000 visas for permanent residence in the United States. Visas are awarded to eligible applicants who win the lottery. Participation in the lottery is free. There is no special form. For your convenience, a sample form and detailed instructions on how to participate in the lottery will be available at the Front Gate of the Embassy. Use the sample as your model for how to apply for this special program.

Please do not telephone, write, or fax the American Embassy for any information on this program. All necessary information is contained in the information handout available at the Embassy's Front Gate.

GOOD LUCK.

NOTICE OF SALE

Date of sale: Tuesday, January 24, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Warehouse near 7th Circle.

Items to be sold: Furniture, various office items and automobiles.

Conditions of sale:

This sale will be conducted by seal-bid. Bid forms will be available at time of sale. All items will be available for inspection at the time of sale. A deposit of 20 per cent of the total bid is required at the time of bid.

All bidders will be notified and deposits refunded beginning on Wednesday, January 25, 1995.

All property must be removed within 24 hours of notification. If not, a storage of JD 50 per day will be imposed. All bids must be deposited by 12:00 p.m. on January 25, 1995.

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Pelletreau rejects Egyptian position on nuclear accord

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior U.S. State Department official arrived here Saturday after throwing cold water on Egypt's threat to renew its adherence to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel fails to sign on.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Robert Pelletreau told Egyptian journalists before leaving Washington that his government wanted an unconditional renewal of the NPT passed in 1970 and signed by 169 states.

"The United States is working for a solution to the crisis" by trying "to convince the signatory countries not to link their position on the treaty's adoption to the position of another country," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Pelletreau was met by Foreign Ministry officials at Cairo airport where he made no further statements.

The treaty, which comes up for renewal in April, has not been signed by Israel which has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons, although Western experts say it has about 200 warheads.

Mr. Pelletreau, who is to take part in preparatory meetings here Sunday and Monday for a full session of multilateral peace talks in Geneva in March, would also try to resolve differences over the NPT, Western diplomats said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is due in Cairo on Sunday to try to defuse tension with Egypt over the NPT and will also take part in the preparatory multilateral talks, his ministry said.

The Egyptian daily Akhbar Al Youm said Washington is studying a compromise under which Israel says it is ready to sign the treaty following the signing by the other countries.

This proposal will be presented by Vice President Al Gore during his scheduled visit here in March, it said, although it was not clear if Mr. Pelletreau would discuss the proposal with the Egyptians.

Mr. Pelletreau said his country "would support the

proposal by President Hosni Mubarak to make the Middle East a zone free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction," according to press reports here Saturday.

The U.S. embassy said Mr. Pelletreau was to hold two days of talks in Cairo on the Middle East peace process.

Lebanon security

Before he left Washington, Mr. Pelletreau said he was looking forward to the upcoming visit there of a Lebanese team to review the security situation there in the hope that this would lead to the lifting of the U.S. ban against travel to Lebanon.

Mr. Pelletreau issued his welcome in reply to a question at a briefing at the Foreign Press Centre in which he reviewed U.S. goals and achievements in the Middle East.

He said the team's visit, tentatively scheduled for early next month, "will permit both sides to look at the security situation in Lebanon and... various aspects of it in greater depth than we have up till this point."

On the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, Mr. Pelletreau said:

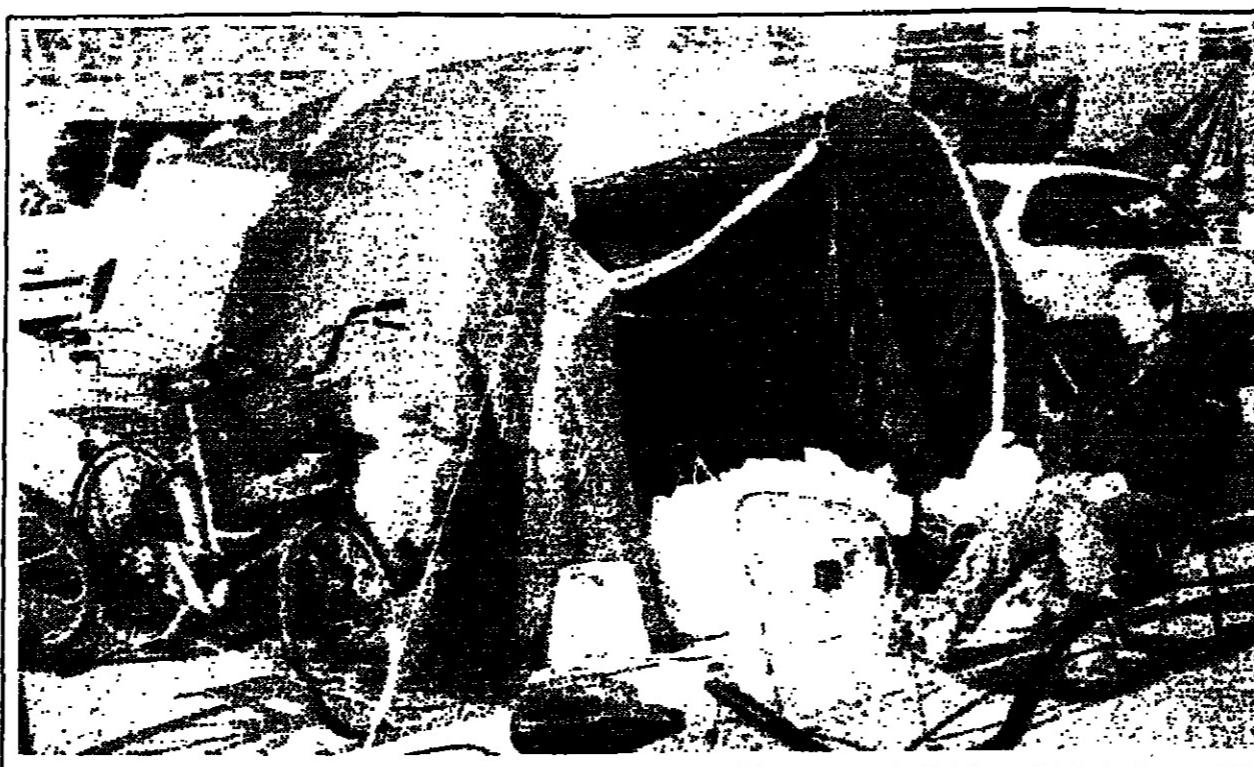
"It's not up to the United States to lift sanctions or not. This is a Security Council decision. And as you know, the Security Council reviews the sanctions situation with respect to Iraq every 60 days.

And at the review that took place earlier this month, there was unanimous agreement that the sanctions should remain in place, because Iraq has not yet complied with the Security Council resolution. There was no disagreement on this."

The next review will be 60 days after that, and we will see what the situation is then. But there's no disagreement among the major members of the Security Council that Iraq needs to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

And we'll be examining what the situation is each time the review comes up.

"If we are successful, if the sanctions are successful in producing full Iraqi compliance with the resolutions, then it would be appropriate to consider lifting the sanctions. But not before then."



REFUGEE: A man sits outside his tent early Saturday in a playground where he and other earthquake refugees are living temporarily. More than 310,000 people are staying in

make-shift shelters, and officials predict that refugees will be homeless for the duration of the winter (see page one). (AP Photo)

2 remanded in London in Israeli embassy explosion

LONDON (R) — A court on Saturday ordered the detention of a man and a woman charged with causing a blast at the Israeli embassy last July that injured 14 people.

Magistrates remanded Jawad Mahmoud Botmeh, 27, and Nadia Zekra, 48, in custody until Jan. 27. No details of their addresses or occupations were given.

The pair, reported to be holding Jordanian passports, were also charged with a bomb attack on a Jewish charity in north London, hours after the embassy blast. Six people were injured.

Botmeh and Zekra were accused of conspiring to plant a car bomb that exploded outside the Israeli embassy in Kensington, West London, last July 26 at the height of the Middle East peace process.

Police said it was a miracle that no one was killed by the explosion, which extensively damaged nearby buildings. The bomb went off as police were checking the car.

Police issued a description of a well-dressed, middle-aged woman of Mediterranean appearance carrying a Harrods shopping bag who was seen parking outside the embassy and then walking calmly away just seconds before the blast.

It later emerged the woman was challenged by police outside the embassy but said she was visiting friends.

The following day, four people were hurt in an explosion at a north London property used by Israeli and Jewish organisations.

Three other people arrested with Botmeh and Zekra on Tuesday under Britain's prevention of terrorism act were released and will face no further action.

Outside the court, Botmeh's solicitor, Tony Braithwaite, said: "My client will strongly be protesting his innocence throughout this matter."

The London attacks came the day after Israel and Jordan signed a treaty formally ending their 46 years of hostilities and reopening the border, a significant step in the Middle East's fragile peace process.

Hamas, the group opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace deal with Israel, denied responsibility for any of the bombings.

Detectives cautioned newspaper editors not to publish photos or artists' impressions of Zekra because her identity was likely to be an issue in the trial.

After the London attacks police issued an artist's impression of the woman who had parked the car-bomb in an Audi sports coupe in front of the Israeli embassy.

Security guards had briefly questioned the woman, who was described as wearing expensive clothes and carrying a Harrods department store bag under her arm, but she had explained she was visiting friends nearby and was allowed to walk away.

The car exploded a few minutes later as the guards ran a security check on the car's license plates, which turned out to be fakes.

FIS wants U.S. to end French aid for Algiers

CAIRO (Agencies) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will meet with U.S. officials next week to seek help in pressuring France to end its support for the Algiers government, a FIS leader was quoted as saying Saturday.

Anwar Haddam, a senior official of the fundamentalist movement's leadership in exile, told the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that FIS leader was quoted as saying Saturday.

The two main Islamic guerrilla movements in Algeria on Saturday rejected the Rome proposals.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) blasted the Rome participants' condemnation of violence as a means of overthrowing the military government and gaining power.

"We will this week have contacts on the subject with U.S. officials," Mr. Haddam told the daily from Washington, where he lives.

The FIS, which has been waging a bloody guerrilla war against the military-backed regime in Algiers since early 1992, accuses France of providing significant military and economic aid to the Algerian government.

It joined with other opposition movements in Rome last week to draw up a series of proposals for ending the civil war, but the plans have been rejected by the Algerian government and the two principal armed movements inside the country.

The meeting would act as a corollary to Washington's "favourable welcome" for the plan, he said.

He added that a campaign to be launched by the FIS this week to inform the international community about the details of the Jan. 13 Rome accord would in no way "signify the internationalisation of the Algerian crisis."

"But we have the right to work to end the inhuman and immoral support for the putschists (of the military regime)

from French circles," Mr. Haddam stressed.

He said only then would the government be forced to sit down with the opposition to discuss implementation of the accord, which calls for a "gradual" end to violence and condemned "detentions, disappearances, murders (and) systematic torture" in the Algerian conflict.

The two main Islamic guerrilla movements in Algeria on Saturday rejected the Rome proposals.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) blasted the Rome participants' condemnation of violence as a means of overthrowing the military government and gaining power.

"The parties who met (in Rome) were unjust towards the mujahedeen in signing the point concerning the condemnation of violence to gain power," the AIS newsletter, Al Feth Al Moumine, said.

The group said the Rome document, which backed a "gradual" return to peace, would do nothing to change the situation in Algeria.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the fundamentalist guerrilla movements, also confirmed Saturday its commitment to "armed struggle" to set up an Islamic-run government in a statement published Saturday by the London-edited Saudi daily Al Hayat.

The GIA criticised the peace plan drawn up in Rome for equating the "jihad (holy war) with civil war."

Meanwhile the president of Algeria's football federation, Rachid Harague, was shot and killed early Saturday by suspected Islamic militants, security services said.

They said "armed terrorists" struck at 7:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) as Harague, 58, was preparing to drive away from his home in central Algiers.

Harague, appointed soccer federation head only last year, was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries.

"Terrorists" is the term used officially to designate Islamic fundamentalists.

Several other sports officials have been among those murdered by suspected guerrillas.

The Confederation of African Football said a minute of silence would be observed during matches of the 20th Africa Nations Cup tournament this weekend in response to Harague's murder.

The killing came just as interior ministers of six countries bordering the Mediterranean met in Tunis to discuss joint efforts to combat Islamic fundamentalism in the region.

The informal talks were the first of their kind to be held by Algeria, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

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Morocco did not send its interior minister, Driss Bassi, to the meeting, a move which participants said they regretted.

In Rabat, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the Moroccan News Agency MAP said flatly Morocco was not participating. He did not elaborate.

In an opening speech, Tunisia's Kallel said the summit had met on Friday night to set an agenda that included the battle against cross-border crime, drug smuggling, clandestine emigration and "terrorism."

He named them as former Foreign Minister Mohammad Ahmad Noman, killed in Beirut in 1974, and former Prime Minister Qadhi Abdallah Al Hajri, who was murdered in London in 1977.

"In the past politicians

were killed simply because they were in favour of implementing the agreement," Mr. Ansari, who accompanied Mr. Saleh during the talk, told state television.

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